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# Meadowlark

*A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS*

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## ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### President's Message

Dear Members:

It's autumn once again. The leaves are falling. The juncos have been in for some weeks and this week, the first American Tree Sparrows arrived in my neighborhood. Only yesterday Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin reported their first Snowy Owls of the season. It will not be long before one is reported here in Illinois.

What avian goodies will this fall and winter bring?

Last year was the year of the Northern Shrike and the redpoll. Shrikes were reported in high numbers (look for an article in a future issue) while Common Redpoll reports increased as the cold weather rolled in with flocks growing to 100 birds or more. We even had more than one Hoary Redpoll to scrutinize. Also notable were sightings of Clark's Nutcracker, Common Raven, Sprague's Pipit, and Rufous Hummingbird. Perhaps the oddest sighting was of an immature Northern Gannet over icy Lake Chautauqua. You can read about some of these fascinating finds in this issue by reading the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee's (IORC) annual report, which we feature in the No. 2 issue of each volume.

Previous issues of *Meadowlark* show that in fall of 2006 birders had the chance to see Say's Phoebe, Yellow-billed Loon, and a Barnacle Goose, judged an escapee by IORC, a finding disputed by some knowledgeable observers.

In fall of 2005, Northern Goshawk sightings were numerous and birders also enjoyed seeing Burrowing Owl, Spotted Towhee, and Townsend's Solitaire.

By November/December the southbound migration is pretty much over, but it is not the time to hang up your binoculars, not even after the Christmas Counts are over. There are still winter finches and owls to look for and gathering hordes of gulls to sort through for rarities. There is still a good chance for a western straggler. And, if you read *Meadowlark*, you'll find something new, different, and exciting that's been found and documented by birders each season. These reports should be enough to make you want to get out there and start looking for more rarities.

***Good birding and Good Luck.***

Michael Hogg,  
President

MHKiwi@aol.com

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## Letter from the Editor

As I write this, a Burrowing Owl, extremely rare in the state, has just been snatched by a Cooper's Hawk at Montrose Harbor, possibly, but not unequivocally due to flushing by overzealous birders. For the most part, contributors to the Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts, IBET, list forum have been civil and thoughtful about this unfortunate incident.

Might I encapsulate a few of the major points here, and add a few of my own?

I also wish to extend thanks to Sue Friscia, the list owner for providing this venue, which I hope can be one of sharing knowledge and open minds versus one of blame and disdain.

Here are the points I found most useful when examining my own conscience about how I should behave as a birder:

- Owls are nocturnal; disturbing them during the day has more repercussions than disturbing birds that are active during the day.

- An incident such as the one involving the Burrowing Owl should remind all of us – yes all of us because not one of us is immune from making poor judgment when it comes to seeking out birds – to think before we act.

- In these days when populations of birds are declining faster than ever before, we might consider taking just a bit more care when out in the field.

- Survival of the fittest is a biological tenet; however, this does not mean that we should wantonly chase down any rarity because it will probably die anyway.

- Watching the Cooper's Hawk take the Burrowing Owl is part of watching nature; it is a window to the behavior of birds, and much is still not known about bird behavior.

- Gathering data to benefit birds can sometimes require us to disturb birds or ecosystems. Recognizing that fact, we should proceed with respect and do our best to perform science without harm.

Will I think more about my own birding activities after this incident? I hope so. Will I be able to put the excitement of seeing a new bird species into perspective considering the type of bird it is and the situation in which it has found itself? Again, I hope so.

Here's to camaraderie in birding; good birds; open minds; and a greater understanding of how we can help wild creatures survive in a world in which their habitats are destroyed every single day.

See you in the field.

*Sheryl DeVore*

# MEADOWLARK

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## About Our Cover:

Kevin Sierzega created this issue's cover of an American Golden-Plover.

Kevin is an undergraduate at the University of Illinois where he is a member of the student chapter of the wildlife society. He is a fish and wildlife major, an avid birder, and an aspiring wildlife artist and photographer.

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# The Plover Project:

## Key stopovers, regional abundance, and habitat associations of American Golden-Plovers in the Grand Prairie Region

By Ben O'Neal and Mark Alessi

[Editor's Note: In 2007, IOS revived its grant program to support bird research in Illinois. A condition of the grants is to write an article on the project for the *Meadowlark*. The response from researchers and donors alike has been remarkable. We look forward to bringing you many more articles that highlight what is being learned about birds in Illinois thanks to your continued support. -JW]

### Introduction

The "Grand Prairie" region of eastern Illinois and western Indiana was once defined by continuous expanses of grassland, dotted with marshes and wet meadows. Migrant shorebirds flocked to the wetlands and open places maintained by fire and bison. Although the landscape is now dominated by row-crop agriculture, some shorebird species still rely on this region for critical stopover habitat. Among them are the American Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) that pass through by the thousands during their transcontinental flight from wintering to breeding grounds. In many years the region supports a substantial portion of the hemispheric population, estimated at 150,000 breeding pairs (Morrison et al. 2001b).

Plovers flock to the wide open farm fields of the Midwest to rest, forage, and molt before heading northward to the Arctic. For decades, local birders have documented large groups congregating in row-crop fields, but beyond these scattered reports, surprisingly little is known about the magnitude of stopover across the region or the habitat selected by plovers.

Just as the plow, tractor, and drainage tile radically changed the Grand Prairie landscape of the 20th century, genetic engineering, ethanol production, and wind turbines are changing it once again. These changes bring new challenges for the American Golden-Plover, whose population has been declining steadily in recent decades (Johnson and Connors 1996, Gratto-Trevor 1998, Morrison et al.



2001a). A thorough understanding of the natural history of these migrants and their unique habitat needs may be necessary to ensure their continued survival.

### Research

To address this need and engage students in avian research, the University of Illinois student chapter of The Wildlife Society initiated The Plover Project. Our initial objectives were to: 1) provide an opportunity for students to participate in relevant bird research, 2) determine the dispersion of plovers across the Grand Prairie region, and 3) explore habitat associations for future analysis.

*A flock of American Golden-Plovers featuring birds in both alternate and basic plumages flies over Shelby County. 4 May 2008.*

*Photo by Eric Walters.*

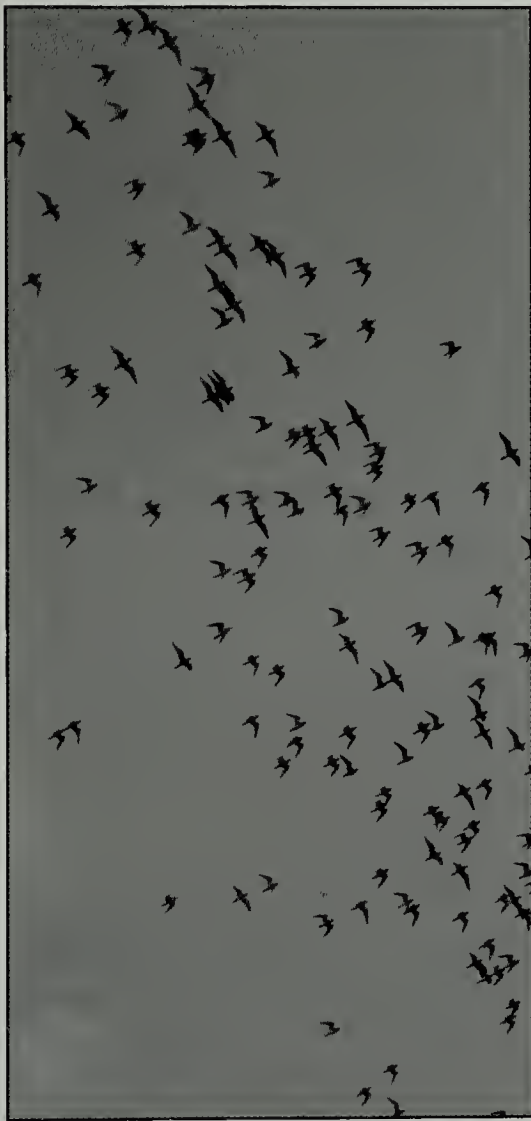
*A student crew observes American Golden-Plovers in Edgar County, Illinois in spring 2008.*

*Photo by Courtney McCusker.*



## Year 1

We analyzed reports of maximum spring counts between 2000 and 2006 from the "Field Notes" records found in the *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds* to evaluate the phenology of plover migration through the Midwest and determine the peak of migration. We delineated the primary stopover region (37,138 km<sup>2</sup>) based on effort-adjusted abundances reported from historical Spring Bird Count data (courtesy M. Ward, Illinois Natural History Survey). See Figure 1.



Unlike other migrants that are restricted to relatively rare habitats within this region, golden-plovers are found largely in row-crop fields, which cover some 76 percent of the entire study area. To conduct an effective long-term survey of such an enormous amount of potential habitat, we first needed information on the typical dispersion of plovers within the region. If they were evenly dispersed throughout the region, then a random sample of potential habitat would suffice, but if they were spatially clustered, then a spatially focused approach would be required. Existing ideas on the overall dispersion of plovers was mixed among shorebird observers, so our priority in year one was to determine the dispersion of plovers and establish the most effective sampling method for future years (Erickson 1984).

In April of 2007, we partnered with Eastern Illinois University to conduct a roadside survey for plovers. Twenty students volunteered and received training on identification, optics, and data recording. Many of these volunteers had limited bird-

*An American Golden-Plover wanders a beach in Chicago in 2007. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.*

*A flock of American Golden-Plovers plies the sky in Edgar County, Illinois in spring 2008. Photo by Courtney McCusker.*

*A flock of American Golden-Plovers flies over a Shelby County, Illinois cornfield in spring 2007. Photo by Wes Serafin.*



ing experience and were given the opportunity to partner with veteran birders to learn while helping out. We randomly selected eight road-based transects from four latitudinal strata within the study area, with four transects located in Illinois and four in Indiana (Figure 1). Eight crews conducted a one-day survey on April 21, 2007; each performing 30 visual point counts at approximately two-mile intervals along 60-mile transects for a total of 240 sampling locations across the region. In addition to plover abundance, we documented the characteristics of habitat used by plovers to help in a later effort to model plover site occupancy. We recorded ground cover (bare ground, tilled corn, soybean stubble, corn stubble, other) and moisture level (dry, moist, standing water). We also estimated the distance from flock to nearest road to examine any aversion to roads and their associated disturbance.

We observed plovers in 9 of our 240 samples, with a total of 2,204



plovers recorded among all sites. The Benton and White counties, Indiana, held exceptional numbers of plovers in 2007. 2,064 were recorded at two adjacent points, and many more were observed incidentally outside of survey points. Flocks were not evenly dispersed throughout the region, but appeared to be spatially associated with one another, with 6 of the 9 observations occurring in pairs of adjacent sites. Six of the flocks recorded were in bare ground, two in soybean stubble, and one in tilled corn. All flocks were observed in dry fields, and all of the flocks were >73 m from the nearest road.

All of our volunteers had a positive, learning experience, but many went the entire day without seeing a single plover. Their observations of plover absence were valuable scientifically but did not result in a rewarding field experience. Because one of our main project objectives was to provide a quality field experience for each volunteer, we resolved to give this issue greater weight in future survey protocols.

## Year 2

Following our own finding on the spatial clustering of plovers in 2007, we also learned from local experts that some stopover locations consistently host large numbers of plovers year after year. By integrating these two findings, we concluded that a spatially focused approach would be the most effective means of conducting a survey that provided a consistent estimate of minimum abundance in the region, a maximum sample of the habitats selected by plovers, and a better research experience for student volunteers. At the same time we became aware of the immense amount of wind turbine siting and construction that was occurring across the region. In response to Illinois' renewable energy legislation calling for 25 percent alternative energy generation by 2025, wind facility developers are exploring the entire region for possible turbine sites (American Wind Energy Association 2008).

Although these facilities have the potential to provide alternative energy

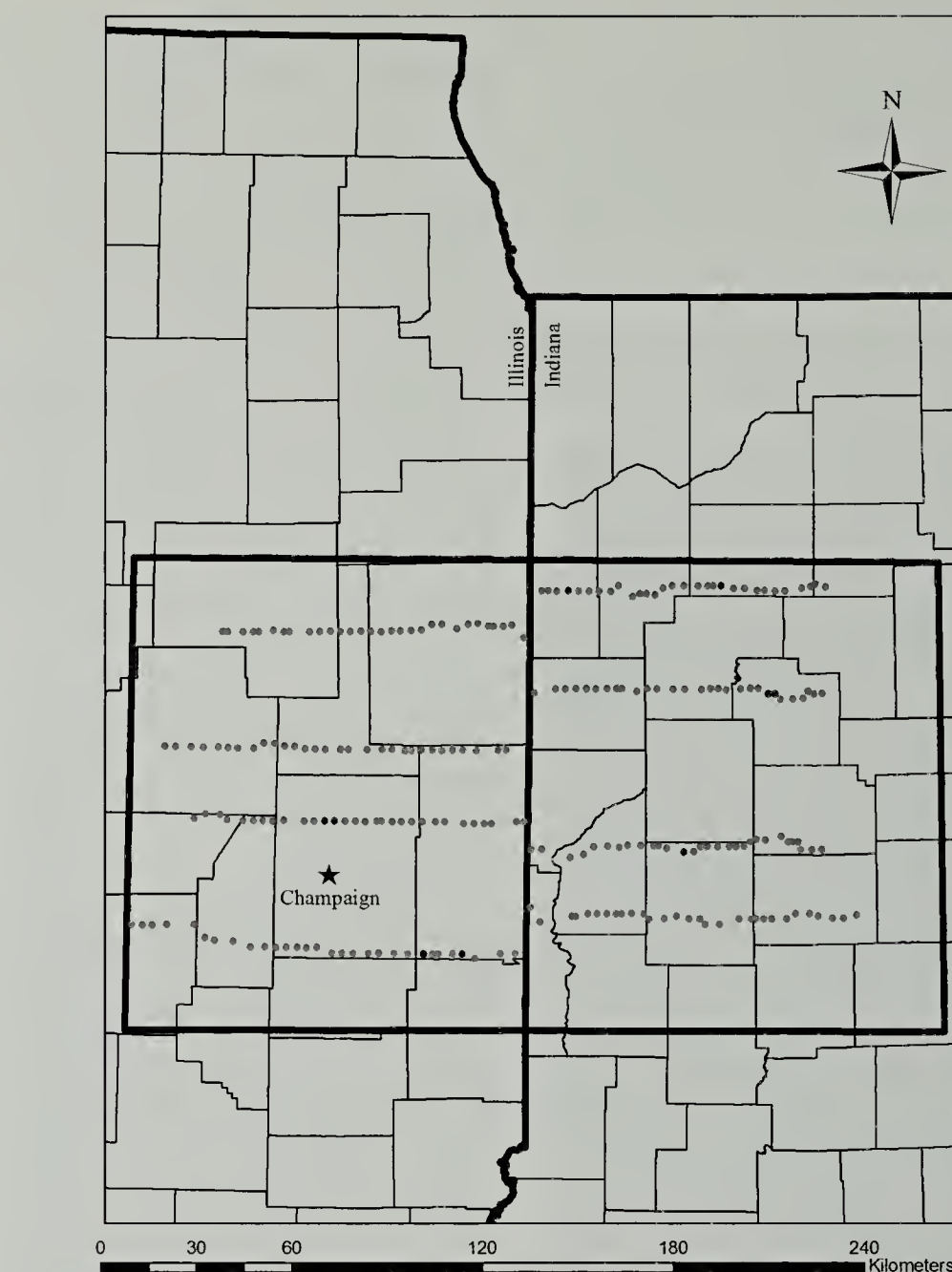


**Figure 1.** Study area and sampling locations for American Golden-Plover survey, 2007  
(• = survey route, • = American Golden-Plover sightings).

for the region, they bring a substantial change to the landscape and airspace that is shared by many types of wildlife (Kuvelky et al. 2007). It is likely that the turbines, access roads, altered drainage, and constant blade motion reduce the habitability of an area to plovers or alters their behavior. Although displacement from an agricultural area might seem insignificant in light of the immense amount available, it could be important if it occurs on one of the staging areas that plovers rely on each year. Documenting abundance of plovers at staging areas, and designating qualifying locations as Important Bird Areas, can help developers to shift the proposed footprint of a facility and avoid potential

conflict. The empirical data on critical habitat areas for migrant American Golden-Plovers is woefully incomplete. Our long-term sampling method offers an ideal method of identifying perennial hotspots for plovers that can be considered during wind facility siting and construction.

With the help of local birders and biologists, we identified 10 key sites as potential perennial stopovers and established them as our core observation areas for 2008 and the years to come (Figure 2). Our objectives for this second phase of the project were: 1) determine minimum abundance for region, 2) document key plover stopover areas, 3) define the spatial extent of hotspots, 4) examine the

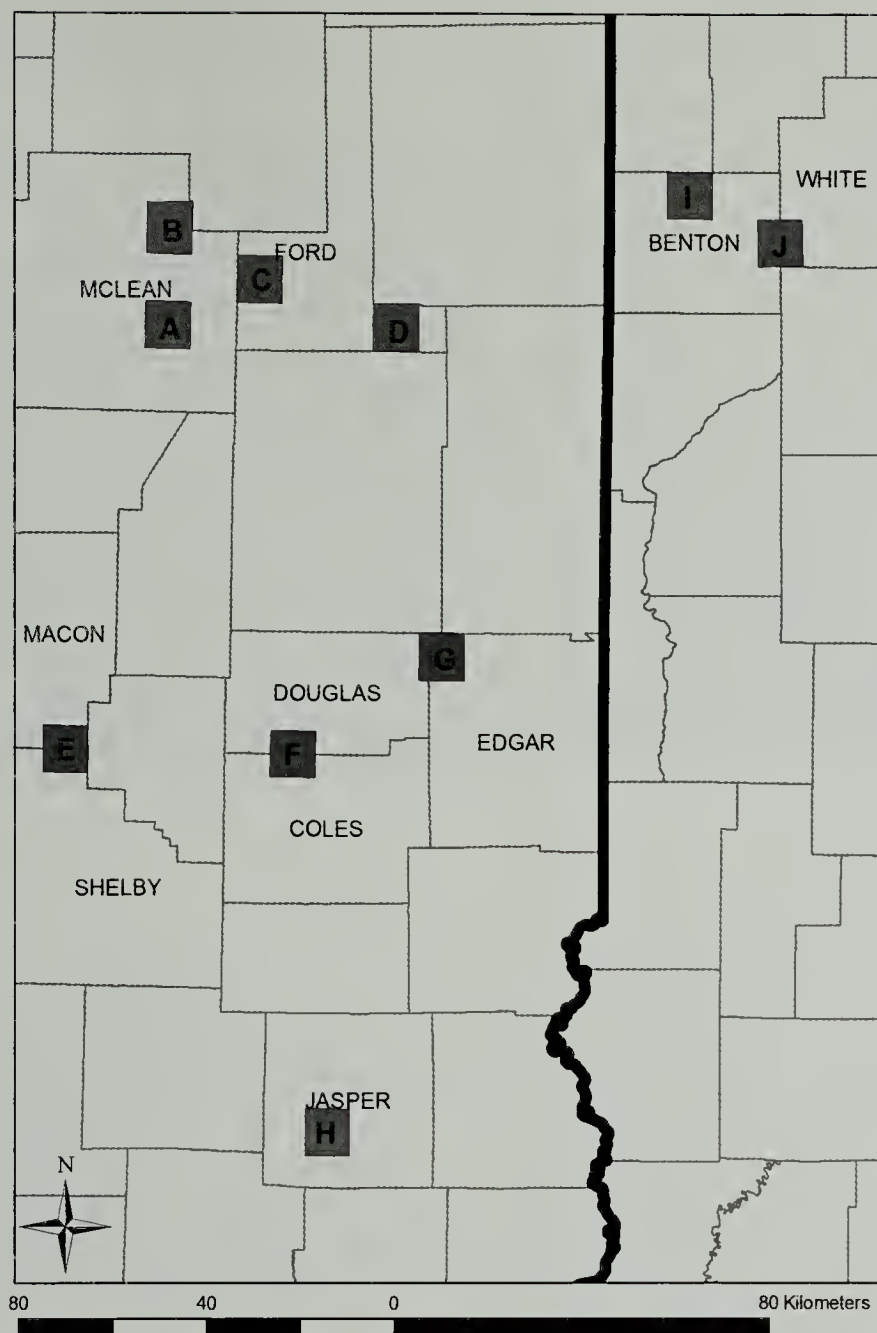


**Figure 2.** Study sites for American Golden-Plover surveys in Illinois and Indiana, USA, 2008.

temporal scale of hotspots, 5) model habitat associations, and 6) provide field experience for students.

In 2008, we recruited veteran birders to serve as crew leaders and mentors for the student volunteers. Twenty-five people participated, many for the first time. Prior to the survey we met to explain the protocol and practice identifying and counting plovers. Each crew was given detailed maps and instructions to enable independent work in the field.

We used a 6-mile by 6-mile township unit to standardize each sampling area. This sampling unit enabled us to bracket the hotspots and determine their spatial bounds. To achieve the most thorough spatial survey while

avoiding double counting, we randomly placed thirty survey points within each township at the midpoint of east-west section roads. Each point was further divided into four quadrants. We surveyed all ten townships during a 24-hour blitz at the peak of migration on 19 April 2008.

We conducted 5-minute, unlimited-radius, point counts at each site, recording the number of plovers and their dominant behavior. Observers also documented all plovers detected en route between observation points. We rotated observers to reduce systematic observer bias. We also documented the distance to each flock to estimate the detection probability.

We documented the aforemen-

tioned habitat characteristics of both occupied and unoccupied quadrants. Using geospatial databases, we also recorded soil type and topography, which may be among the factors preferred by plovers (Erickson 1984). All of these covariates will be used in later analyses to construct models of plover occupancy.

The spring migration of 2008 was unusual for many birds, and golden-plovers were no exception. Leroy Harrison of Prairie Ridge State Natural Area reported fewer plovers overall in 2008 than he has seen in the last thirty years. Of our 10 sites, only 4 held any plovers on the April 19th survey. Most plovers stopped short at the southern portion of the stopover region. Ninety-eight percent of all the plovers we observed were found at similar latitudes in townships E, F, and G (Figure 2).

In spite of the odd migration, we still recorded 11,655 plovers. 3,862 were recorded in township F, with exceptional numbers southeast of Arcola, Illinois. 3,470 were recorded in township E, with most located southwest of Dalton City, Illinois. 4,083 were observed in township G, primarily northwest of Hume, Illinois. Township I in Benton County, Indiana contains an Audubon Society Important Bird Area for golden-plovers, but we only recorded 240 plovers there, with very few sightings at any time during the entire migration.

Supplemental surveys in the weeks preceding and following the primary blitz survey indicated very consistent use of the same areas throughout the staging period. In the three most heavily used townships (E, F, and G), plovers generally restricted their daytime use to an area no larger than nine square miles. With only one year of observations, it is not yet clear to what extent plovers rely solely on these very specific restricted areas, but it seems possible that plovers rely on discrete hotspots for much of their stopover. We will continue to examine the local and landscape-level characteristics of plover hotspots to try to identify what sets them apart from the rest of the region.

Preliminary analysis of the 2008 habitat use data confirmed strong patterns of occupancy across all sites, with the majority of plovers found >120 m from roads, in moist, soybean stubble. Across all areas, plovers selected sites with these characteristics more than would be expected based on their proportion among all habitat types. Although fields meeting these three criteria may seem common, their prevalence within the traditional hotspots mentioned above is becoming less each year. Large open fields are being broken by housing developments, cell phone towers, and wind turbines. Moist fields with standing water are being drained by increasingly efficient tile technology. Fewer fields are being planted to soybeans as ethanol subsidies make corn a more profitable crop.

It has long been thought that plovers prefer soybean fields to corn fields and other agricultural cover, but this notion has thus far been based on opportunistic observations. Our comprehensive survey of all the cover types in the agricultural landscape confirms that plovers do indeed select soybean fields for daytime habitat. There are several possible advantages that soybean fields offer to plovers: 1) they typically receive fewer pesticide applications, which allows for higher invertebrate prey biomass, 2)

they have less cover to obscure vision while watching for predators, 3) they allow for freer, safer flight compared to corn fields that are cluttered with stout stalks (Erickson 1992).

In addition to a field's substrate, moisture is also important for quality plover habitat. Moisture may be essential for the long-term production of invertebrates as well as the short-term exposure of available invertebrates. Standing water in the vicinity may also be useful for preening, which is essential to the molting process that occurs while stopping over in the spring. In the surveys preceding the blitz when conditions were much wetter, nearly all plovers were observed in fields that contained standing water.

Following the type of ground cover and moisture level, the distance from thick cover and roads also seems important to plovers in selecting habitat. Plovers most often occupy the middle of fields, distancing themselves from cover that may hold predators and roads with disturbing traffic. There is little data on the most frequent predators of golden-plovers particularly during migration, though raptors appear to take advantage of the concentrated prey provided by staging plovers. In township G, we recorded a particularly high density of Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*),

and observed instances of the harriers hunting large flocks of feeding plovers.

Although open, wet, and very sparsely vegetated areas are preferred for the daytime activities of foraging and preening, plovers must also find suitable habitat for roosting.

We restricted our formal surveys to the hours of 0900 to 1700, but often continued informal observations up until sunset. During this time period we consistently observed flocks of plovers moving from the preferred foraging fields described above to adjacent corn stubble fields. This is the first documentation of roosting habitat for American Golden-Plovers during spring migration. These stalk fields may provide a degree of thermal cover during cool spring nights and perhaps cover from nocturnal predators.

## Conclusions

This project has been extremely successful in providing aspiring biologists with real world experiences in bird research and conservation. In just two years, more than forty students have participated. Each one has had the opportunity to learn the pleasures and challenges of rigorous fieldwork, the natural history of plovers, and the skills involved in developing, executing, and interpreting wildlife research. Through this project, we have been able to develop camaraderie within our chapter, collaborate with other student chapters, and interact with experienced professionals.

With the help of these volunteers we've surveyed an enormous geographic area and documented substantial numbers of plovers. During our time in the field, we've begun to document unique behaviors and natural history of staging plovers. By systematically analyzing habitat associations we've also started to define the key components of stopover habi-



*It takes a crew to do work on projects such as the one being done on the American Golden-Plover. Photo by Alex Svec taken in 2008 of the many participants in this study.*



*An American Golden-Plover  
pauses in a cornfield.  
Shelby County. 4 May 2008.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*

tat. We've identified and delineated critical stopover areas, and provided empirical support for their conservation amidst the rapid growth of wind facilities, rural housing developments, and intensified agriculture.

We met dozens of landowners while stopped along rural roads. Very few of them were even aware of the plovers' presence, but all of them were thrilled to hear that these world travelers had stopped on their farm. The reaction of these observers is testimony that American Golden-Plovers are indeed fascinating birds and special guests on the working lands of the Midwest. Their future in this part of the world depends on an increased awareness and attention to their unique natural history and habitat needs. The Plover Project is making solid strides in that effort.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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— Ben O'Neal and Mark Alessi  
University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign,  
Illinois 61856

# Fourteenth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

*By Douglas F. Stotz*

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 64 records of 42 species, including 57 accepted records of 37 species, and seven unaccepted records of seven species. We examined documentation from a total of 54 observers in evaluating the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations by the current Committee from 2003 through 2008.

**Format:** The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through thirteenth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989, 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999; Stotz and Johnson 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; Stotz 2001, 2007). The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. Each of these groups is then further divided into First State Records, Review List Records, and Other Records. The taxonomy and sequence of species conforms to that of the seventh edition of the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist, (1998) and its supplements, through the 49th (Banks et al. 2008).

An accepted record is entered with the locality (including the standard abbreviation for the county), the date, and (in parentheses) the IORC record number (the first four characters of which give the year of the first observation), and the initials of the primary observer(s) who contributed specimens, descriptions, and/or photographs. Similar information is provided for unaccepted records, except the observers remain anonymous, and a brief explanation of why the record was not accepted is given. Photographic evidence is noted following a contributor's name by an asterisk (\*). Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions--a practice the Committee encourages. The initial observers, if known to the Committee, are listed first, set off from later contributors of documentation by a semicolon. For specimen records, a sharp (#) follows an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalog number of the specimen.

Many records seen by numerous observers were documented by only a few of these observers, often only one. The Committee encourages all observers to document all the review list species they see. Documentation by

multiple observers can provide additional evidence and support for the identity of rarities. Often records that have been not accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem which additional documentation by other observers could help overcome. Additionally, end dates of rarities are often poorly documented; later observers can improve our record of when rarities leave by providing documentation. Increasingly photographs, especially digital images, are being used to document records, which has improved the acceptance rate of records. However, most photographic documentation is not accompanied by written documentation. The Committee encourages observers to provide written documentation of records, even if documented by photographs. Written documentation can often provide important information in the evaluation of a record, even if high-quality photographs are obtained. In at least two cases reported herein, the Committee did not vote to accept based on photographs alone, but did accept the record with additional details provided by written documentation.

Information on the age and sex of the birds reported may be an opinion of the person(s) submitting the evidence and is not necessarily an accepted position of the Committee. All other remarks are the authors', although most of the information comes from the Committee files which are now stored in Chicago, Illinois, in the Bird Division of the Field Museum.

In several cases there are discrepancies between the details presented here and those in other published sources, especially regarding dates of occurrence. The data in this report provide the Committee's best assessment of all available information. I have not generally commented on records that are published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here, but have made explicit note of apparent errors in published data. The author accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information herein. Errors that come to his attention will be published as corrigenda in a future IORC report.

**Abbreviations:** References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark*, *A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds* and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, AB, and NAB, respectively, followed by volume and page numbers. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters.

County abbreviations are the first three letters of their name in most cases. Exceptions in this report are MCN for Macon Co, MSN for Mason Co., MSS for Massac Co., and SCL for St. Clair Co.. These abbreviations follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton and Clyne (1998) and used in subsequent IORC reports.

“Northern”, “central”, and “southern Illinois” refer to specific subsections of the state as first defined by Gault (1922); see also Bohlen (1978). An on-line map showing the regions of Illinois can be found at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/Listing/2004%20Lists/IllinoisRegionalBirdingMap.gif>.

**Documentors:** William Barnes, Marilyn Bell (MBe), Frank K. Bennett, H. D. Bohlen, Tom Bormann, Maury Brucker, Scott A. Cohrs, Linda Cox, Carl & Pen DauBach, Rich DeCoster, Paul K. Doughty, Tim Dwyer (TDw), Joseph W. Eades, Mary Jane Easterday, Carolyn S. Fields, Robert E. Fisher, Matthew E. Fraker, Bryan A. Guarente, C. Leroy Harrison, Jim Hedges, Frank M. Holmes, Steven J. Huggins, Robert D. Hughes, Dennis J. Jacobson, David B. Johnson, Dan M. Kassebaum, Jo Knox, Gregory S. Lambeth, Karen Lund, Travis A. Mahan, Joseph Marencik, D. James Mountjoy, Demayne Murphy, James Myers, Greg Neise, Dennis Oehmke, Eric Ratcliff, William C. Rowe, Bill Rudden (BRd), Thomas S. Schulenberg, Eric S. Secker, Mark Seiffert, Robert E. Shelby, Douglas F. Stotz, Paul W. Sweet, Mike Thelen, Joshua Uffmann, Ken Vail, Jenny Vogt, Eric W. Walters, Gerald White, Barbara Williams, Daniel T. Williams.

**Review List:** The Review List includes species for which the Committee will review all records or all records outside of some determined range within the state. These are species that, in general, average two or fewer records per year in the state, or which are extremely rare in all

but a few counties in the state. The current review list was revised at the 21 September 2008 Committee meeting. IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the review species listed on the review list on the IOS/IORC website: <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html>. In addition, any species not listed in the checklist of Illinois state birds (IORC 1999; also on-line at [http://www.illinoisbirds.org/birds\\_of\\_illinois1.html](http://www.illinoisbirds.org/birds_of_illinois1.html)) should be documented, and will be reviewed by IORC. Documentation of regular species may be appropriate when they occur out of season--i.e., exceptionally early arrival dates or late departure dates for migratory species. All first state nesting records also should be documented. Exceptionally high counts of species may also merit documentation. These documentations should generally be sent to the seasonal editor of the Field Notes in the Meadowlark and/or the regional editors for North American Birds. Similarly, rarities on Christmas Bird Counts and Spring Bird Counts should be documented and that documentation provided to the appropriate compiler. In most cases, other than review list species, IORC will not review documentations, except at the request of compilers or editors.

**Acknowledgements:** This report is made possible by the thoughtful, careful and timely review by all Committee members both past and current, and by the support of Illinois birders and institutions which contributed evidence of Illinois birds by specimens, documentations, photographs, and/or videotapes. Current Committee members, Bob Hughes, Dave Johnson, Travis Mahan, Paul Sweet and Mike Ward all provided careful evaluations of the records included in this report, as did Keith McMullen who left the Committee following the March 2008 Committee meeting.

## ACCEPTED RECORDS

### First State Records Accepted (one record of one species)

**Wilson's Plover** (*Charadrius wilsonia*) One adult at Rainbow Beach, Chicago, COO on 1-8 Aug (2007.045; PKD; DBJ). This is the first accepted record for Illinois of this species. It was previously considered hypothetical (IORC 1999) based on two sight reports mentioned in Bohlen (1989). There is a scattering of records in the upper Midwest, including sightings in Ohio, Minnesota (AOU 1998), and Indiana (source?).



*Wilson's Plover.  
Rainbow Beach,  
Chicago. Cook  
County. Photo  
taken 1-8 August  
2007 by Paul  
Doughty.*

### Review List Records Accepted (49 records of 30 species)

**Brant** (*Branta bernicla*) One at East Galesburg, KNO on 9 Dec (2004.067; DJM).

**Mottled Duck** (*Anas fulvigula*) One at Horseshoe Lake, MAD on 28-30 May 2005 (JWE, WCR, DMK\*). This record was accepted based on the written documentation. Photos were not considered diagnostic by a sufficient majority of the Committee, so they are treated as supportive of the record.

**Neotropic Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) One adult at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 22-23 Sep (2007.038; DTW; DMK\*, TAM\*)

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellis*) One photographed at Chautauqua NWR, MSN on 30 Nov 2006 (JV, DO\*); one breeding- plumaged adult at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, JAS on 22 May (2007.052; RES\*).



Four juvenile Wood Storks visited Hurricane Creek, Seminary Township, Fayette County from 28 August through 11 September 2007. Photos taken 8 September 2007 by Travis A. Mahan.



**White-faced Ibis** (*Plegadis chihi*) One at Chautauqua NWR, MSN on 30 Nov 2006 (JV, DO\*). The record from Chautauqua and that for the previous species are the latest fall records for both species in Illinois.

**Wood Stork** (*Mycteria americana*) Four juveniles at Hurricane Creek, Seminary TWSP, FAY on 28 Aug-11 Sep (2007.042; Frances Baldwin, Sandy Britt; TAM\*, DMK\*).



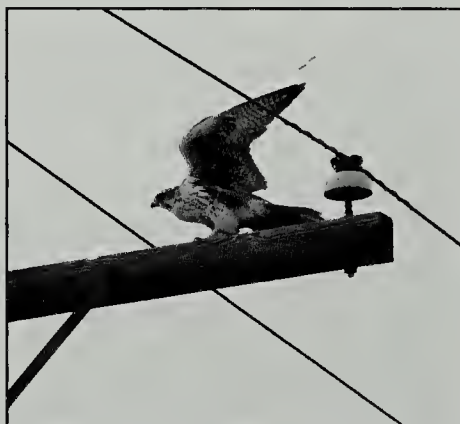
*Mississippi Kite. Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County. 4 November 2007. Photo by Steve Huggins.*

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) One at Rockford, WIN on 8 Jul (2003.043; BW); one at Rockford, WIN on 10 May (2003.049; JM); one in ADA on 10 May (2003.045; KV); one at Winfield, DUP on 10 May (2003.046, MBe); one in SCL on 10 May (2003.047; ER); one w of Lexington, MCL on 10 May (2003.048; MEF); one at Belleville, SCL on 20 May (2007.027; DMK);

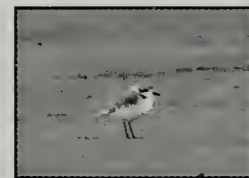
one at Waterfall Glen FP, DUP on 5 May (2007.028; JHe); one, 2nd year, at IBSP, LAK on 14 Sep (2007.029; PWS); an adult female at IBSP, LAK on 3-4 Nov (2007.037; SJH\*). IORC required documentation of Mississippi Kite from locations outside the limited breeding range of this species in southern Illinois. Such records have been increasing in number in the last few years, and the Committee has removed the species from the review list.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) One at IBSP, LAK on 24 Sep (2006.046; PWS); one at IBSP, LAK on 14 Sep (2007.037; PWS); One at Rockford, WIN on 15 Sep (2007.051; DTW).

**Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) One at McHenry Dam, MCH on 31 Aug (2007.015; CSF); one at IBSP,



*Prairie Falcon. Champaign County. 30 December 2007. Photo by Greg Lambeth.*



*Snowy Plover. Decatur dredge ponds, Macon County. 30 April-2 May 2007. Photo by Travis A. Mahan.*

**Snowy Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) One at Lake Decatur dredge ponds, MCN on 30 Apr-2 May (2007.041; TAM\*).

**Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*) One along the Mississippi River at Lock & Dam 16, ROC on 29 June (2007.071; GW, TDw).

**Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) One at Mermet Lake, MSS on 27 Feb (2004.071; FKB); two adults at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 22 Nov (2007.035; BRd; DMK\*, TAM\*). One of the Carlyle birds remained until 27 Nov 2007.

*Little Gull. Carlyle Lake, Clinton County. 22-27 November 2007. Photo by Dan Kassebaum.*



**Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*) One bird at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 23-24 Feb (2008.007; DMK\*, BRd\*, TAM\*, FMH\*, TB\*). This bird engendered a huge amount of discussion. It is apparently a 3rd cycle bird, clearly belonging to the canus complex. However, many observers thought the bird was an example of the taxon kamchatschensis ("Kamchatka Gull"), considered by some to be a distinct species. The Committee examined a number of photos and compared them to collections at the Field Museum. Unfortunately, birds in this plumage are not as cut-and-dried for identification as adults. The Committee concluded that we could not at present be certain that this individual belonged to kamchatschensis, but that



*Mew Gull, possible  
'Kamchatka' Gull, Carlyle  
Lake, Clinton County.  
Photos above and right  
taken 24 February 2008  
by Bill Rudden.*

the evidence was generally supportive of that identification. Size, structure and details of plumage pattern favored kamchatschensis, but many of these characteristics, especially plumage characteristics, are not 100% diagnostic at this age.

**Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistosagus*) One adult at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 16-18 Dec (2007.057; DKM\*, JU\*). This is the third accepted record of this species from Illinois. All of the accepted records have been adults.

**Glaucous-winged Gull** (*Larus glaucescens*) One adult at Carlyle Lake, CLI from 8 Sep (2007.034; MS; DMK\*; TAM\*, EWW\*) to 12 Apr 2008. Although this bird was present for a number of months, there



*Slaty-backed Gull.  
Carlyle Lake, Clinton  
County. 16-18 Decem-  
ber 2007. Photo by  
Joshua Uffman.*



*Glaucous-winged  
Gull. Carlyle Lake,  
Clinton County. This  
bird was here from  
7 September 2007  
through 12 April  
2008. Photo by  
Travis A. Mahan.*



were lengthy periods during the overall period of occurrence when the bird was not seen for a period of weeks, including more than two months between mid September and late November 2007, and a month between late February and late March 2008. Its whereabouts during these lengthy absences are not known. See <http://www.htc.net/~kdan/glaucouswingedgull.htm> for details of dates of observations.



*Arctic Tern. Carlyle Lake, Clinton  
County. 9 September 2007. Photo  
by Mike Thelen.*

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) One adult at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 9 Sep (2007.056; MTh\*) A secondhand report that was not documented indicates that this bird was present on 8 September 2007 as well.

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) One at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 8-12 Sep (2007.031; DMK, TAM)

**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) One at Carlyle Lake, CLI on 6-8 Oct (2007.026; DMK). Most of the handful of records of this species in Illinois come from the month of September.

**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*) One at Carlyle Lake, FAY on 12 Jan-2 Mar (2008.001; DMK).

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*) One at IBSP, LAK on 7 Jun (2007.022; PWS). This is the second record of this species for the state.



*Clark's Nutcracker. Illinois  
Beach State Park, Lake  
County. 3 November 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*

**Clark's Nutcracker** (*Nucifraga columbiana*) One at IBSP, LAK on 3-7 Nov (2007.044; EWW\*; DBJ). IORC has accepted one previous record for the state, Hancock County, winter 1996-7, saved as a specimen at the Illinois State Museum (Johnson et al 1999). Bohlen (1989) mentions three other records including

a specimen collected in 1894 that is apparently lost. A report from DeWitt Co. in Oct 2001 has never been considered by the Committee, as documentation has not been submitted.

**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) One at IBSP, LAK on 13 Oct (2007.020; PWS, SJH\*). The photos taken of this bird were not considered sufficient by the Committee to fully document this record, and it was accepted by the Committee based on the written documentation. Until the late 1800s, this species was resident and moderately widespread in Illinois. It vanished from the state and has



*Common Raven*  
at Illinois Beach  
State Park, Lake  
County. 13  
October 2007.  
Photo by Steve  
Huggins.

been considered extirpated in the state (IORC 1999). Over the last forty years, however, Common Ravens have expanded their range to reoccupy area from which they had disappeared, including northern and central Wisconsin (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). The last accepted record for Common Raven in Illinois was 54 years to the day earlier, in 1953 at Chicago (Bohlen 1989). There have been several reports of Common Raven in Illinois since then, but these reports have either not been documented or have not been accepted by IORC.

**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) One at Siloam Springs SP, BRO on 17 Jul (2007.049; DMK). This is the last remaining breeding site known for the species in Illinois. The species appears to have been absent for the previous three years from the site.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) One at IBSP, LAK on 6 Nov (2004.069; DTW); one at Johnson-Sauk Trail SP, HEN on 19 Nov (2007.043; EWW\*).



*Townsend's Solitaire* at Johnson-Sauk Trail State Park,  
Henry County. 19 November 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.

**Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) One at Pyramid Lake SP, PER on 10 Nov (2007.033; DMK). A fall 2006 report of this species from the same locality is still under review by the Committee. An article reviewing the status of this species in Illinois and Missouri was recently published (Kassebaum and Eades 2008).

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) One at Riverside Park, n. of Springfield, SAN on 29 Sep (2004.070; HDB).

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) One at Montrose, Chicago, COO on 22 May (2007.030; DM).

**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) One at Monterey Mine, CLI on 22 Nov (2007.025; DMK)

**Hoary Redpoll** (*Carduelis hornemanni*) One at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, COO on 19-28 Jan (2008.006; SG, DP\*; GN\*). There are other birds from winter 2008 being evaluated by the Committee as possible Hoary Redpolls.



*Hoary Redpoll*. Chicago  
Botanic Garden, Lake  
County. 20 January  
2008. Photo by  
Greg Neise.

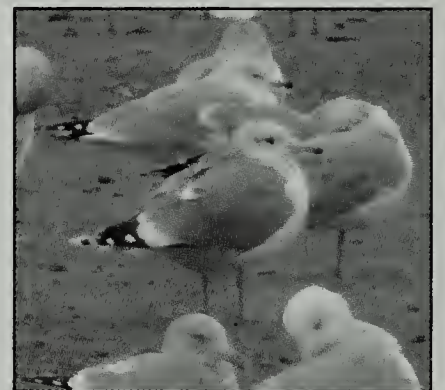
#### Other accepted records (seven records of six species)

**Rough-legged Hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*) One at Fermilab, DUP on 22 Aug (2004.072; KL). This is the earliest fall report of this species in Illinois. It typically arrives in October, but Bohlen (1989) mentions a 31 August report and two September records.

**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*) One adult at Independence Grove FP, LAK on 17 Nov (2007.032; RDH\*); one adult at Winthrop Harbor, LAK on 24 Nov (2007.033; RDH\*).

**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*) One adult male at Aledo, MER on 6 Sep (2007.055; JK<sub>n</sub>)

**Northern Shrike** (*Lanius excubitor*) One in CLI near Carlyle Lake on 1-4 Nov (2007.039; DMK\*, TAM\*). This was the most southerly report of this species during the enormous flight that occurred during the fall of 2007. It is approximately the same latitude of the southernmost previous Illinois report, a bird near Horseshoe Lake, Madison Co.



*California Gull*. Winthrop  
Harbor, Lake County.  
24 Nov 2007. Photo  
by Bob Hughes.



*Northern Shrike in Clinton County, the most southerly report of this species during the flight of 2007. Photo taken 3-4 November 2007 by Dan Kassebaum.*

in the winter of 1999-2000 (Stotz 2001).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Vermivora celata*) One in Grant Park, Chicago, COO on 2 Sep (2005.022; DFS). Orange-crowned Warblers are reported by birders in early September and even late August, but there is little evidence to support these early fall reports. This record is one of the few documented reports from early September. The earliest fall specimen in the Field Museum collection is 14 September, and is one of only four (out of 78) from earlier than 28 September.

Any Orange-crowned Warbler in the fall in Illinois before 15 September should be documented.

**Palm Warbler** (*Dendroica palmarum*) subspecies hypochrysea (Yellow Palm Warbler) One at Northerly Island, Chicago, COO on 7 Nov 2006 (DFS, TSS).

## UNACCEPTED RECORDS

### Possible first state record species (three records of three species)

**Great Gray Owl** (*Strix nebulosa*) One photographed near Sparta, RAN on 2 February (2007.058). The observer in this case photographed the owl in question without specifically identifying it as to species. Because the photos appeared to show pale eyes, people to whom the observer showed the photos concluded that the owl was a Great Gray Owl. The Committee concluded, after extensive discussion, that the bird in the photo was a Barred Owl. On close examination, the pale eyes looked to be an irregular area of off-white that did not fully fill the eye sockets, rather than the piercing bright yellow eyes of a Great Gray Owl. The Committee believes that the pale eyes seen in the photo are an artifact. The plumage of the bird also appears to resemble that of a Barred Owl rather than a Great Gray Owl. The general tone of the plumage, the extent of the facial disks and the underparts pattern fit Barred Owl rather than Great Gray Owl. The winter of 2006-2007 was not a major flight year for Great Gray Owl, unlike 2005-2006 when this species occurred south to Iowa and southern Wisconsin. Also southern Illinois seems like an unlikely locale for the first Illinois record of this boreal forest species.

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) One seen by a single observer in Lincoln Park, Chicago, COO on 28 Oct (2006.051). The majority of the Committee felt the submitted documentation was insufficient to accept this report as the first state record. The details were consistent with Cave Swallow, and the date is also consistent

with the timing of vagrant Cave Swallows elsewhere in the upper Midwest. However, the Committee felt that the description was inadequate to absolutely eliminate immature Cliff Swallows (in particular the pale auriculars of a Cave Swallow were not noted), and the observation of this flying bird was brief and made with the naked eye; no binoculars were used. There have been a handful of Cave Swallows reported from Illinois, mostly along the Lake Michigan lakefront, but none have been accepted yet by IORC, although at least three records remain under consideration. The species has been found in small numbers in other Midwestern states. Most vagrant records in inland eastern North America are from late fall, so this report fits the known pattern of vagrancy. The limited evidence indicates that vagrant birds belong to the subspecies pallida that breeds in Texas and New Mexico (Spahn and Tetlow 2006).

**Varied Bunting** (*Passerina versicolor*) One reported from Montrose, Chicago, COO on 14 Nov (2004.066). This was a single observer sighting of a basic-plumaged adult male. A majority of the Committee voted not to accept the record based on questions about the origin of such a bird, although a couple of Committee members also expressed concern about the identification, questioning whether other buntings and grosbeaks had been eliminated. Varied Bunting undergoes a fairly limited migration at the north edge of its range with birds withdrawing a short distance southward into northern Mexico. Varied Bunting typically disappear from their southwestern US breeding grounds by September (Phillips et al 1964), well before this record. However, the only two California records are from mid-November and January (Roberson 1980). There is little evidence of long-distance vagrancy in this species; the only accepted record in North America far from its breeding range is a 7 May 1995 record at Long Point, Ontario (Dobos 1996).

### Review list species

#### (three records of three species)

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) One seen and photographed in southwestern MON on 13-14 Oct (2007.023). The Committee examined both the photograph and the written details on this bird. A majority of the Committee thought that the documentation was not sufficient to determine the identity of this bird, as White-faced Ibis could not be eliminated. The bird is accepted as a *Plegadis* sp., not identified to species.

**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) One gray morph reported at Peoria, PEO on 17 Dec (2005.021). The Committee unanimously thought that the documentation of this bird had too limited a description of the bird and did not rule out the possibility of it being another species of raptor.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) An adult male found dead near Midway airport, COO in early May (2007.059). A photo of a dead adult male Painted Bunting appeared on-line on Craig's List (<http://chicago.craigslist.org/>) in mid May 2007. The narrative that accompanied the photo

indicated that the bird had been found near Midway and was buried in the backyard of the person who found it. Posts on Craig's List are anonymous and attempts to contact the person who posted the photo were unsuccessful. This record is consistent with current patterns of vagrancy in Painted Buntings in Illinois (there are several May records, for example, the Montrose record above). However, a variety of factors led the Committee not to accept this report for Illinois. That this record remained anonymous, did not have a specific locality or date, and involved an adult male individual found near a major airport of a species that is commonly held in captivity led the Committee to this decision.

#### Other records not accepted (one record of one species)

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) One at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, COO on 30-31 Jan (2006.044). The written documentation does not provide a description of this bird or an explanation of how it differed from other possibilities. With the lack of details to establish the identity of this bird the Committee voted not to accept this record. Some of the plumages of young Bald Eagles can resemble the plumage pattern of an Osprey. Given the abundance of Bald Eagles in Illinois in winter and the very few winter Osprey records, immature Bald Eagles should be considered carefully by Illinois birders when they observe a bird they believe may be an Osprey between December and February.

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See page 48 for journal abbreviations.

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— Douglas F. Stotz  
Conservation Ecologist/Ornithologist  
Field Museum of Natural History  
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605  
[dstotz@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:dstotz@fieldmuseum.org)

# Hardin County's "Rock Route"

By Eric Walters

As I sat in the gazebo up on a rocky point overlooking the Ohio River, the cool spring breeze along with the dawn song of the nearby Purple Martin colony nearly lulled me to sleep. It was difficult to pull myself away from this beautiful river view, with the potential of something interesting flying by at any moment. However, I knew the Hardin County 'Rock Route' was on the morning agenda and I was certain it would produce.

I've named the birding portion of this trip, "Rock Route" since it goes through Tower Rock, Cave-In-Rock State Park, and Battery Rock, but another name could be "Poor Man's Pomona" for those familiar with that rich birding location.

This small section of southeastern Illinois offers a great opportunity to enjoy productive birding while still having time for other local activities that might interest a non-birder with you. I've named the birding portion of this trip, "Rock Route" since it goes through Tower Rock, Cave-In-Rock State Park, and Battery Rock, but another name could be "Poor Man's Pomona" for those familiar with that rich birding location.



*The Pine Warbler breeds in Hardin County along the "Rock Route." Listen for its high-pitched trill high in the pine trees. Be careful to differentiate between the song of Chipping Sparrow and Pine Warbler, which sound similar. Photo by Emil Martinec.*



*The Chestnut-sided Warbler is a common migrant in Hardin County in spring. Photo by Emil Martinec.*

Starting from your overnight location in Elizabethtown, head northeast up Route 146. Where a road turns east, look for a group of pine trees where Pine Warblers breed. Take the road east about one-half mile where you'll find a few homes with nectar feeders which attract hummingbirds during migration. The first two miles of this road travel through rolling countryside, after which you'll cross Peters Creek. Stop anywhere along this road to look for birds.

When the road splits, turn east on Tower Rock Road. In about one mile, you'll enter the town of Tower Rock. Turn south into the wooded hillside on the Ohio River. This entrance area is on the northern downward slope while the campground (\$5/night, almost always empty) is on the southwestern side of the bluff facing the Ohio River. Since the sun might not penetrate into the deep woods until well after sunrise, it's best to drive all the way down to the Ohio River boat launch parking lot to get a sense if migrant songbirds are working the trees as they move along the river. If migration is occurring, the trees



*The Orange-crowned Warbler can sometimes be heard singing at the end of April along Cave-in-Rock Road. This is a great place to learn how to distinguish between Chipping Sparrow, Pine Warbler, and Orange-crowned Warbler songs in Illinois. Photo by Emil Martinec.*

along the edge could keep your attention for a while. The best Tower Rock birding location seems to be the woods along the entrance road (starting at the Tower Rock Camp and Picnic Grounds sign) south to the northern side of the campground.

You can hike to the top of Tower Rock, which should produce a few more of the treetop warblers and tanagers and perhaps the wonderfully noisy Pileated Woodpecker. You can access the start of the trail just north of the boat launch parking area. As this path winds up the hillside, you'll see beautiful wildflowers in spring, and at the top of the rock, you'll be rewarded with an incredible view of the Ohio River valley. Besides looking for territorial Barred Owl, Cooper's Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, and Pileated Woodpecker, also seek out migrant warblers and other songbirds here.

During weekdays, you'll likely have the whole place to yourself, so stopping and even parking temporarily along the road shouldn't create any traffic issues.

When you leave Tower Rock, you'll turn east back on the same road, which is now called Cave-in-Rock Road. In essence you'll now be traveling along the first ravine north of the Ohio River where breeding and migrant birds appear to find food and safety in the valley.

The first half mile features more woodland habitat along with roadside scrubby edges. Stop anywhere along the road to bird. When you cross a large bridge over a creek (1.9 miles from Tower Rock entrance), check for waterfowl in early spring and shorebirds in late spring.

Farther down the road, you'll notice a white picket fence, which is the edge of a subdivision that borders the Ohio River. Turn south into the Riverside Bluff subdivision road where there are small long ponds that have held a few waterfowl and shorebirds in season. You can park along the road in one of a few spots to get a view of these watering holes.

Continuing east from this subdivision along Cave-in-Rock Road will bring you through more woodland on both sides of the road, offering more opportunities to see breeders and migrants at close range. At least two Barred Owl territories are along this road into town and they have been heard calling mid-morning.

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... Cave-in-Rock Road will bring you through more woodland on both sides of the road, offering more opportunities to see breeders and migrants from close range. At least two Barred Owl territories are along this road into town and they have been heard calling mid-morning.

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Here's a short list of the number of singing males along this route on 29 April, when I made a two-hour early morning foray: 2 Wild Turkeys; 3 Barred Owls; 7 Pileated Woodpeckers; 17 White-eyed Vireos; 8 Yellow-throated Vireos; 20 Red-eyed Vireos; 12 Wood Thrushes; 4 Blue-winged Warblers; 3 Golden-winged Warblers; 1 Orange-crowned Warbler; 21 Northern Parulas; 5 Yellow-throated Warblers; 6 Prairie Warblers; 5 Prothonotary Warblers; 8 Louisiana Waterthrushes; 1 Hooded Warbler; 9 Kentucky Warblers; 4 Yellow-breasted Chats; 4 Scarlet Tanagers; 3 Summer Tanagers; 50 White-throated Sparrows; 1 Blue Grosbeak; 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; and 5 Orchard Orioles.

In 1.4 miles you will arrive into the Cave-in-Rock city limits. Head south to the Ohio River Ferry Launch to get a quick view of the flowing river, most of which is on the Kentucky side of the state line. Turn back north a block to Park Road and head east, which will take you into Cave-In-Rock State Park, a half mile away.

This small 204-acre state park, with its 60-foot-high wooded hills and river bluffs, was home to river pirates living in the on-site cave. This area isn't as birdy as Tower Rock or the woody ravines along the road you just left. But you'll still be able to get additional views of many of the species already found. For the best this park has to offer, take the short Hickory Ridge Trail, which travels through mixed woodlands with some undergrowth and has been good for Kentucky Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. Also look for both tanagers and Worm-

eating Warbler here. The maples along this trail in fall are beautiful.

The northwest side of the campground near the pond area can also yield birds (especially Wild Turkey early in the morning) and the entrance road parallel to the Ohio River has a number of parking lot turnoffs, which can be worth a temporary stop to look for birds in the open tall woodland here. The ranger's home is at the top of the hill and usually has hummingbirds at the feeders. For a better view with more hummers, have a southern-style lunch at the Lodge Restaurant where you can watch hummingbird fights over the nectar feeders as you enjoy the view looking out over the Ohio River. Be sure to keep an eye out for vagrant hummingbirds.

If you haven't found a Prairie Warbler yet, then the current habitat along the exit road heading northeast (.2 mile) from the state park lodge will surely yield one in the appropriate season. Also look for Blue Grosbeak and Blue-winged Warbler in this habitat and consider looking in the nearby evergreens adjacent to the parking lot for roosting owls and hawks. Along this exit road, keep an eye on the sky for Black Vultures mixed in with the local Turkey Vultures. If you don't get a Black Vulture here, then continue on the road, staying left (Fords Ferry Road) when the road splits. Take this to the T intersection and turn east along 500N. Drive .1 mile until you get a satisfactory view of the distant bluff line to the northeast. Both

vulture species ride the thermals coming off these bluffs on sunny days.

Well to the northeast is Battery Rock, which can be a challenge; the roads marked on public atlases can get confusing. I've collected less information about this section and it awaits further exploration by some intrepid birder. One specialty in this area is the breeding population of Worm-eating Warblers in the high wooded ravines. Depending on the atlas used, one of the best locations can be described as along the roadside between Ace Perry Point north to Haney Creek (or another description is between 1490E north to 700N).

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**If you haven't found a Prairie Warbler yet, then the current habitat along the exit road heading northeast (.2 mile) from the state park lodge will surely yield one in the appropriate season.**

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The avian activity can surely hold your attention longer, so it's best to have a full morning of birding. I've found that heading back on this same route will yield a different mix of singing birds, depending on the time of day. Just after sunrise the Wood Thrush, Wild Turkey and Northern Parula are quite active with Kentucky Warbler and Red-eyed Vireos start active singing a few hours later. White-eyed Vireos sing throughout the day.

After returning to pick up your spouse/friend, you can spend the rest of the day exploring the local fluorspar mine (Illinois' state mineral), take an Ohio River boat ride, visit a fudge-making store, visit an old iron oven or retrace Davy Crockett's footsteps. Additional information on day trips, including a shopping day trip, can be found at the Hardin County website: <http://www.hardincountyil.org/daytrips.htm>. This website's link to local lodging has a picture of the aforementioned gazebo on the Ohio River adjacent to the Grand Rose Hotel.

Some of the best overnight accommodations in Elizabethtown are the romantic bed-and-breakfast River Rose Inn (618) 287-8811 and the Grand Rose Hotel (618) 287-2872, both beautiful Victorian style buildings on the Ohio River. The small number of guest cabins at Cave-In-Rock State Park (618) 289-4545 will also give you Ohio River views from your private patio deck. If you're on a budget or desire to have more of a wilderness feel, you can camp there or at Tower Rock.

— Eric Walters  
Zion, Illinois

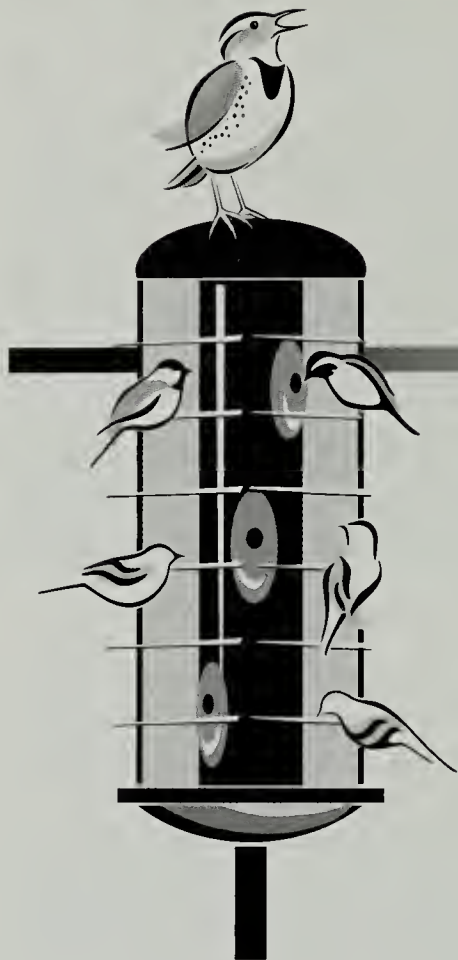
[Ericwalters7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ericwalters7@sbcglobal.net)



*Among the many migratory warblers to be seen along "Rock Route" during spring migration is the Magnolia Warbler. Emil Martinec took this photo of a male "Maggie" in Illinois.*

## Reflections on backyard birding throughout Illinois

by Robert Fisher



we spotted a lone female eating the sunflower seeds spread on our back deck railing. It was 11 November, 1999, almost nine years ago as I write this. We were able to alert a number of Chicago area birders via phone calls, so a lot of people got to see her before she disappeared the next day.

Evening Grosbeaks are surely one of the most sought-after winter finch species around Illinois today. Sightings are few and far between; in some recent winters none were seen anywhere in our state. Their recent rarity is a bit disappointing since they were regular visitors (sometimes in large numbers) to bird feeders in our state from the 70s up through the mid 80s. Why the decline? The most prevalent theory: Huge outbreaks of spruce budworms in the boreal forest provided a great food source for this species during their breeding season. This in turn led to a large increase in population, and nomadic flocks roamed widely in search of food during the fall and winter, sometimes arriving (and staying) until every last sunflower seed had been eaten. As the size and severity of those spruce budworm outbreaks diminished, so did the numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, though the population in eastern North America appears to be stable.

Karen and I have a somewhat less scientific take on why we're not seeing or hearing this spectacular species these days. We blame their absence on an increase in well-stocked sunflower feeders in our neighboring state to the

north. Wisconsin feeder watchers are short-stopping our birds! I'm seriously thinking of writing a complaint letter to the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.

Though we're unlikely to entice Evening Grosbeaks down this way, another winter finch is almost certain to appear as winter approaches—Pine Siskins. These feisty little thistle/nyger gobblers will be squabbling with the resident American. Goldfinches for the prime spots on many thistle bags or upside down feeders. When not at a feeder scarfing down thistle, Pine Siskins frequently glean seeds out in open weedy fields, or dangle on birch and alder branches, feeding on their catkins. For a few years in northeastern Illinois, you could reliably find siskins eating the river alder seeds as this non-native tree species spreads along various small rivers, creeks, and ponds. For some reason, the siskins have been less prone to do that recently, but they continue to utilize hemlocks during those winters when this tree species produces lots of cones. The aptly named Hemlock Hill at the Morton Arboretum has always been a reliable spot for Pine Siskins.

And it's always worthwhile to search through those siskin flocks (at your feeders or in the field). One or more of them may prove to be a redpoll! Common (and Hoary) Redpolls usually stay in the very far north during the winter, specializing on white and yellow birch seeds, a high energy food source. Birch seed crops are

Winter is approaching; both Karen and I are feeling a sense of anticipation and excitement as we put up and fill our backyard feeders. We always increase the number of feeders available for birds during the winter, and we know our feed bill may increase considerably when the winter finches arrive and then empty those feeders as fast as we can fill them. Species like Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches are reliable annual visitors to our yard. Common Redpolls have appeared six out of the last eight years. But we also live in hope that other, scarcer species will appear, like maybe a Hoary Redpoll, a flock of Evening Grosbeaks, one of the two species of crossbills, or even Pine Grosbeaks. Some may say our wish list is dreaming in Technicolor...but you never know.

When's the last time you had Evening Grosbeaks at your backyard bird feeders? Or perhaps they've never made an appearance? Karen and I vividly remember the last time

reportedly poor this year up in the boreal forest so they may be moving south. When they do irrupt south they are equally at home at feeder stations, competing effectively with goldfinches and siskins. Interestingly, one study conducted in Massachusetts suggested redpolls actually prefer millet seeds, something to keep in mind when stocking your winter feeders if you're getting redpolls.

How both redpoll species survive and prosper in the harsh Arctic winters is truly amazing. One of their adaptive features: They store seeds in laterally expandable sections of their esophagus (aka, diverticula). When it's very cold, they gather seeds quickly while in the open, storing them in the diverticula, retreat to a sheltered area, regurgitate, husk, and consume the seeds. Redpolls can store up to 25 percent of their daily cold weather energy needs in this manner.

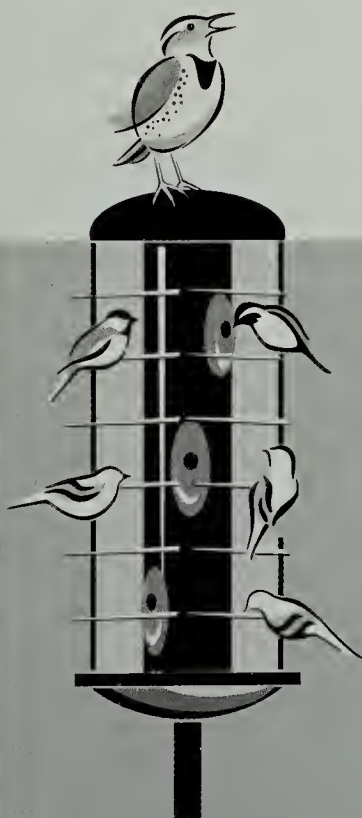
White-winged Crossbills have overlapping breeding ranges with the redpolls, but don't go quite as far north; Red Crossbills are much more widespread, also breeding in Western USA's coniferous forests, clear down to the conifers in the mountains in Mexico. Neither are traditional feeder



*Will White-winged Crossbills show up at your Illinois feeder this winter? Photo taken in Highland Park, Lake County by Richard Ettlinger several years ago.*

birds since their bill shape is designed to extract the seeds from pine cones and other conifers. But they will utilize feeders on some occasions. Karen and I have a poor but memorable (to us) photo of a male Red Crossbill eating sunflower seed on our platform feeder, taken 14 March 1970. Both crossbills are consummate nomads, always to be found where the cone crop is good. This winter, forecasts suggest Red Crossbills may stay north because of the abundant white pine cone crop (their preferred seed source). If the white or red cedars, or hemlocks in your yard (or a nearby park or preserve) have lots of cones, you should keep an eye out for White-wings; the spruce cones they prefer are pretty sparse this year up north, and they may be headed south.

Check your local conifer stands, and stock your feeders. This could be the year when Evening Grosbeaks return, or redpolls or White-winged Crossbills invade in numbers. Heck, the last invasion of Pine Grosbeaks into Illinois was 1978 – maybe they irrupt on a 30-year cycle? Or how about one of those three Colorado rosy-finch species getting blown just a bit off course on their way to New Mexico for the winter. Now that's really dreaming in Technicolor! Still, it could happen!



*Artwork by Jenny Vogt.*

## Yard Birds

I'd welcome your feedback on this column, as it may become a regular feature in the Meadowlark. I'd especially like your yard and feeder bird stories and observations, which we can build into future columns. The editor and I both hope we can make this column a place where IOS members who enjoy backyard birding can share their experiences. Send me your observations, interesting visitors and the like. That's why the column subtitle is: Reflections on backyard birding throughout Illinois.

You can reach me at: [bfisher928@aol.com](mailto:bfisher928@aol.com) or by phone at 630-985-2956. Tell me your story and I'll write it down. I look forward to hearing from you.

— Robert Fisher  
715 86th Place  
Downers Grove, IL  
60516



*Field Notes drawing of Red-breasted Nuthatch by James P. Zeibol.*

# Field Notes

## The 2007 fall migration

*by Douglas F. Stotz*

Fall of 2007 had fairly ordinary movements of migrants. The lack of much significant weather meant that fallouts of migrants were few and unimpressive. However, rarities made a good showing. The most notable rarity was a WILSON'S PLOVER at Rainbow Beach on the Chicago lakefront in early August. As usual, Carlyle Lake produced several impressive finds including a November PACIFIC LOON, a NEOTROPIC CORMORANT in September, PARASITIC and LONG-TAILED JAEGERs, an adult GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL in September and November, two November LITTLE GULLS, and an ARCTIC TERN in September. Illinois Beach State Park produced nearly as many rarities as did Lake Carlyle. The Hawk Watch there had an impressive array of rarities including two MISSISSIPPI KITES (one of them in November), two SWAINSON'S HAWKS, a PRAIRIE FALCON (others were in McHenry and Kane Counties this fall), and a COMMON RAVEN (the first accepted record in Illinois since 1953). Other Illinois Beach rarities included YELLOW RAIL in October, and a November CLARK'S NUTCRACKER. Significant rarities elsewhere included 4 WOOD STORKS in Fayette County in August, 3 BLACK RAILS in Monroe and Vermilion Counties (2) in August through October, an August RUFF in McHenry County, a WHITE-WINGED DOVE in Champaign County, a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE in Henry County, SPRAGUE'S PIPIT at Pyramid State Park, and a Clinton County GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE.

Fall of 2007 was essentially normal for temperature, until the second half of November when temperatures were below normal. August was very wet, but the remainder of the fall had well below average precipitation. Fronts were few and weak resulting in little in the way of strong migratory movements.

### Ducks through Hawks

Waterfowl migration was later than usual, with most species not present in significant numbers until the end of October. Numbers of dabbling ducks were generally unimpressive, but there were good counts of all of the regular diving ducks. Scoters were present in smaller numbers than in recent years, with most counts of multiples coming from Lake Michigan. After last year's excellent fall, loons and rare grebes had a mediocre showing, with two Pacific Loons, two Western Grebes, no Red-necked Grebes, and only a small

handful of Red-throated Loons. There were good counts of American White Pelicans from large reservoirs in southern Illinois and along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. There were good heron counts scattered across the state, but especially in July at Horseshoe Lake in Madison County. Most impressive were probably eight American Bitterns in Monroe County in late October, and seven Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Lake Calumet in August. Two Plegadis ibises were reported. The Illinois Beach Hawk Watch had a stellar season with the rarities mentioned above and record seasonal counts for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon and single day records for those four species, plus Rough-legged Hawk and American Kestrel. The Greene Valley Hawk Watch continues to develop. It had the largest count of Broad-winged Hawks during a generally poor year for that species, plus impressive single day counts of Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk. Otherwise, raptors did not make much of a splash this fall.

### Rails through Woodpeckers

Rail migration was pretty typical with good numbers of Soras, and small numbers of other species. Sandhill Crane migration was not particularly impressive, with only two large counts received. Movement peaked in the latter half of November and continued into early December. No Whooping Cranes from the reintroduced population were reported to me. Shorebird migration was fairly typical for the most part, with good numbers along the Illinois River and from some downstate lakes. However, heavy rains in late August created temporary flooding at sod farms and a few other sites in northeastern Illinois, resulting in about a ten-day period of unusually high numbers of shorebirds for this part of the state. Although impressive to Chicago-area birders, these numbers were much lower than the counts at shorebird concentrations downstate. Five jaegers were reported, 3 Parasitics, 1 Long-tailed and an unidentified juvenile. Winter gulls arrived late, with few reports before November. As usual, Winthrop Harbor was a mecca for the large white-headed gulls. Two adult California Gulls were photographed in Lake County. Sabine's Gulls were typically present on downstate reservoirs in September and well into October. A single Black-legged Kittiwake in Wilmette was the only one reported. Tern migration was poor. Only Carlyle Lake had reasonable counts, including an impressive 400 Black Terns. On the other hand,

Short-eared Owls were in normal numbers along the Lake Michigan shoreline and at inland grasslands. There were several good counts of Common Nighthawks in late August and early September, the best count being 1347 at Kankakee. Chimney Swifts were back to near-normal departure dates after 2006's surprising late season. High counts were scattered through September. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had a fairly typical migration, although there were late lingering birds at several sites. A Rufous Hummingbird in Mercer County, and an unidentified *Selasphorus* in Lake County were the only rare hummingbirds reported to me. Migrations of both Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were good, but concentrations were not particularly impressive. High counts of sapsuckers were concentrated on the Chicago lakefront on 26 September.

Passerines

Overall landbird migration was not very impressive, with few significant fallouts and few high counts. Landbird migration got underway more or less on time, with small numbers of migrants in late July and early August, and few early records. The first influxes of warblers and thrushes began arriving in the latter-half of August. It largely ended in early November as the cold weather arrived a little early this fall. Empidonax flycatchers had a poor migration again.

Vireo counts and timing were pretty typical. Swallow concentrations were mostly pretty small other than Tree Swallows at Carlyle Lake. Thrush migration was not particularly good, but better than the last couple of years. Gray Catbird was represented by a surprising number of birds that lingered into December along the Chicago lakefront. Warbler migration was generally weak, with few high counts and few early or late dates. Cape May Warbler in Grant Park and

Black-throated Green Warbler at Carlyle Lake had good high counts. Northern Waterthrushes were well underway by late July with at least five July records, as well as a Louisiana Waterthrush. The lack of fallouts meant that Sparrow counts were pretty routine, and there were fewer of the rarer sparrows reported than most falls. Smith's Longspurs downstate add to a growing trend of fall records for this regular spring migrant. There were good counts in November of both Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in northern Illinois agricultural land, along with the usual small numbers migrating along the Lake Michigan shore.

Irruptive Species

The hawk watches had good counts of Rough-legged Hawks, but elsewhere they were scarce. Most of the few Goshawks reported came from the hawk watches. Northern Shrikes, on the other hand, had a tremendous invasion with more than sixty reports by the end of November. While most reports came from northeastern Illinois, birds scattered across the state as far south as Clinton, Morgan and Brown Counties. Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded in good numbers, with a number of reports in the first half of August. By November, they were mostly restricted to conifer areas. Pine Siskins appeared in moderate numbers beginning at the end of September. Purple Finches had a good flight and arrived early with a number of August reports. Despite good counts of White-winged and Red Crossbills at Illinois Beach State Park and Sand Ridge State Forest, respectively, there were few other reports. Redpolls began arriving at the end of October for what turned into a strong invasion, at least in northeastern Illinois. A few Evening Grosbeaks reported this fall is actually a step up from recent years.

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following organizations and observers, who supplied the data included in this summary. Observers are credited by their initials following each record. As in previous reports, the sequencing of individual observers below is based on alphabetization of last and first/middle initials rather than on alphabetization of last names:

Organizations and Institutions:

|      |                                                                                                                          |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CBCM | Chicago Bird Collision Monitors<br>(data largely involving window-strikes at high rises in downtown Chicago)             |
| COS  | Chicago Ornithological Society<br>(field trip data)                                                                      |
| FMNH | Field Museum of Natural History                                                                                          |
| IBHW | Illinois Beach Hawk Watch<br>(data from Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co), compiled by Vic Berardi)                    |
| IORC | Illinois Ornithological Records Committee                                                                                |
| IOS  | Illinois Ornithological Society<br>(field trips)                                                                         |
| NPBW | North Pond Bird Walk (weekly surveys at North Pond in Lincoln Park, Chicago, led and compiled by Geoffrey A. Williamson) |

Individuals:

Amar Ayyash, Bill Atwood, Cindy M. Alberico, David K. Antieau, Jill S. Anderson, Louise M. Augustine, Arlene E. Brei, Dale E. Birkenholz, Francis Baldwin, Frank K. Bennett, Joan C. Bruchman, Leslie Borns, Lawrence G. Balch, Michael J. Baum, Nicholas L. Block, Richard G. Bjorklund, Sandy Britt, Samuel B. Burckhardt, Steven D. Bailey, Sigurd N. Bjorklund, Karin M. Cassel, Paul R. Clyne, Rob Curtis, Scott A. Cohrs, Alfred G. Dierkes, Carl & Pen DauBach, Carol A. Dougherty, Donald R. Dann, John Duran, Myrna F. Deaton, Paul K. Doughty, Tim J. Dever, Robert Erickson, Carolyn S. Fields, Karen D. Fisher, Matthew E. Fraker, Matthew J. Fletcher, Robert E. Fisher, Sue Friscia, Steven M. Freed, Tyler D. Funk, Caleb E. Gordon, Chet O. Gresham, Joel Greenberg, Michael G. Green, Urs W. Geiser, Bruce Heimer, C. Leroy Harrison, Frank R. Holmes, John Heneghan, Jed B. Hertz, Kanae Hiribayashi, Larry L. Hood, Mary Hennen, Robert D. Hughes, Steven J. Huggins, Dennis J. Jacobsen, Rhetta L. Jack, Denis Kania, Dan M. Kassebaum, Jo Knox, Lucas Kaaij, M. Kehoe, Peter Kasper, Thomas F. Kelly, Tim

L. Kuesel, Gregory S. Lambeth, Nolan Lameka, Anita L. Morgan, Cynthia K. McKee, David Mott, D. James Mountjoy, Gordon Molek, John Mori, John D. McKee, Jeffrey S. Maharry, Keith A. McMullen, Karen K. Mansfield, Leo Miller, Luis G. Muñoz, Michael A. Madsen, Robert A. Morgan, Susan Mochel (SML), Scott Meister (SMr), Travis A. Mahan, Walter J. Marcisz, Greg Neise, John Novembre, Edward O'Brien, John H. Purcell, Peter J. Page, Ari Rice, Bill Ruden, Gerald B. Rosenband, Kevin B. Richmond, Lisa Rest, Michael L. Retter, Phil Reyburn, William C. Rowe, Alan Stankevich, Alan F. Stokie, Brian Smith, Chris Swisegood,

Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Jeff A. Smith, Joan Schooley, Joseph L. Suchecki, Jeff O. Sundberg, Jeffrey R. Sanders, Ken Schneider (KSc), Kevin Swagel (KSw), Leonard Stanley, Mark Seiffert, Paul W. Sweet, Robert E. Shelby, Randy L. Shonkwiler, Steve Spitzer, Thomas S. Schulenberg, Wesley S. Serafin, Craig A. Taylor, Craig B. Thayer, Edward J. Teune, Michael L. Trahan, Michael S. Thelen, Patricia A. Turner, Joshua P. Uffman, Dave Weichers, David E. Willard, Daniel T. Williams, Eric W. Walters, Geoffrey A. Williamson, Jay Withgott, Jason T. Weir, Matthew J. Winks, Tony Ward, and Jody Zamirowski.

**As a printing aid the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:**

|       |                     |                   |                                                |     |                    |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| EA    | earliest arrival(s) | (sub)ad.          | (sub)adult(s)                                  | L   | Lake               |
| MC    | maximum count(s)    | imm.              | immature(s)                                    | NWR | National Wildlife  |
| LD    | latest departure(s) | juv.              | juvenal(s) / juvenile(s)                       |     | Refuge             |
| *     | documented record   | 1st yr/2nd yr/... | first plumage year/<br>second plumage year/... | P   | Park               |
| m.ob. | many observers      |                   |                                                | SF  | State Forest       |
| ph    | photographed        | CA                | Conservation Area                              | SNA | State Natural Area |
| v     | video               | Co(s)             | County (Counties)                              | SP  | State Park         |
| spec. | specimen            | FP                | Forest Preserve                                | Twp | Township           |
|       |                     | SFWA              | State Fish & Wildlife Area                     | Wds | Woods              |

|                 |                                                                             |               |                                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| (L) Bloomington | (Lake) Bloomington (McLean Co)                                              | IL            | Illinois                                             |
| Carl.B/C/F      | Carlyle Lake (Bond Co/Clinton Co<br>Fayette Co)                             | JP            | Jackson Park and vicinity, Chicago<br>(Cook Co)      |
| Carl.L          | Carlyle Lake (county unspecified)                                           | Kankakee      | Kankakee (Kankakee Co)                               |
| Chau            | Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge<br>(Mason Co)                           | LCal          | Lake Calumet area (s. Cook Co)                       |
| Chi             | Chicago (Cook Co); see also Grant P,<br>JP, Linc.P, Montrose H, Northerly I | Ldn-Mlr       | Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co)                 |
| Clin.L          | Clinton Lake (DeWitt Co)                                                    | Linc. P       | Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)                      |
| (L) Decatur     | (Lake) Decatur (Macon Co)                                                   | L Shelbyville | Lake Shelbyville (Shelby &<br>Moultrie Cos)          |
| E. Fork L       | East Fork Lake (Richland Co)                                                | Montrose H    | Montrose Harbor, Lincoln Park,<br>Chicago (Cook Co)  |
| Evergreen L     | Evergreen Lake (McLean/<br>Woodford Cos)                                    | Northerly I   | Northerly Island, Burnham Park,<br>Chicago (Cook Co) |
| Grant P         | Grant Park, Chicago (Cook Co)                                               | Palos         | Palos area (sw. Cook Co)                             |
| Greene Vly FP   | Greene Valley Forest Preserve<br>(Du Page Co)                               | Rend L        | Rend L (Franklin/Jefferson Cos)                      |
| Hennepin L      | Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration<br>Area (Putnam Co)                        | Salt Crk Wds  | Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve<br>(w. Cook Co)     |
| HL              | Horseshoe Lake State Park<br>(Madison Co)                                   | Urbana        | Urbana (Champaign Co)                                |
| IBSP            | Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)                                         | Wauk.         | Waukegan (Lake Co)                                   |
|                 |                                                                             | Winthrop H    | Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co)                            |

Transparent directionals (n. = north(ern),  
ne. = northeast(ern), etc.) are used where applicable.

Headings for species requiring IORC (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee) review in parts of Illinois or in some plumages are underlined, while those for species requiring review of all records are CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED.

Records pending IORC review are enclosed in square brackets [ ]. The IORC review list can be viewed at the IOS/IORC website, <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/iorc.html>. Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular re-

gions of the state are underlined and boldfaced, and some further editorial remarks are boldfaced.

Remarks on the historical significance of records aim to be valid for the corpus of data published in Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and in the seasonal summaries in the Illinois journals *Illinois Birds* and *Birding* (summer 1984 - spring 1991) and *Meadowlark* (summer 1991 - present). Most of these remarks were supplied by Paul R. Clyne.

The 2003 DeLorme *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of place names for sites included therein.



## The 2007 fall migration

### Greater White-fronted Goose

EA: 12 Oct, Rochelle (Ogle Co) (EWW); 20 Oct (34), Carl.C (DMK, MS); 21 Oct (108), Tinley Park (Cook Co) (WJM, AA); 21 Oct, Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co) (AS); 22 Oct, Madison Co (FRH). MC: **1353**, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB)—**record fall high count** (previously 800); 200, Carl.C, 10 Nov (DMK, IOS).

### Snow Goose

EA: 14 Sep, Montrose H (RDH et al.); 25 Sep (2), L Shelbyville (EWW). MC: 400, Carl.C, 25 Nov (DMK, MS); 215, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB).

### Ross's Goose

EA: **15 Sep**, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF)—**record early arrival** by six days; 10 Oct, Durand (Winnebago Co) (LGB). MC: 14, Modena (Stark Co), 18 Nov (EWW), 13 still present on 23 Nov (DFS); 4, Carl.C, 11-24 Nov (DMK, MS).

### Cackling Goose

EA: 14 Sep (2), IBSP (EWW); 15 Sep, West Chicago (Du Page Co) (SAC); 22 Sep (2), Rend L (CLH). MC: **3800+**, Rochelle (Ogle Co), 18 Nov (EWW)—**second highest count**; 1400, Stark Co, 23 Nov (DFS).

### Canada Goose

MC: 9960, Kane Co, 25 Nov (DFS); 2800+, Lake Co, 27 Oct (EWW).

### Mute Swan

MC: **112**, Banner Marsh FWA (Fulton Co), 13 Oct (LLH)—**record fall high count** and first high count away from LCal area in excess of 80 birds.

### Trumpeter Swan

MC: 4, Chau, 24-30 Nov (RGB, SNB).



*Ross's Geese with Cackling Geese, Annawan, Henry County. 13 October 2007. Photos by Eric Walters.*

**Tundra Swan**

EA: 3-4 Nov (3), Chau (DJM, KAM). **MC:** 38, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB).

**Wood Duck**

**MC:** 250, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 4 Aug (WSS); 169, Chau, 24 Aug (RGB, SNB); 150, Decatur (DMK, TAM, MFD).

**Gadwall**

EA: 4 Aug (7), Rend L (CLH); 17 Aug (2), Hennepin L (DFS). **MC:** 5000, HL, 28 Oct (FRH); 690, Chau, 26 Oct (RGB, SNB); 600, Carl. C, 28 Oct (DMK, MS).

**American Wigeon**

EA: 28 Aug, Kankakee (JBH). **MC:** 200, Carl.C, 20 & 28 Oct (DMK, MS); 60+, Decatur (KAM, TAM); 52, Palos, 28 Oct (GAW).

**American Black Duck**

EA: 2 Aug, Kankakee (JBH); 17 Sep, Decatur (TAM). **MC:** 24, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB); 11, Wauk, 30 Nov (EWW).

**Mallard**

**MC:** 8000, Carl.C, 24-25 Nov (DMK, MS); 6341, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB).

**Blue-winged Teal**

**MC:** 300, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 275, L Bloomington, 8 Sep (MJW); 250, HL, 23 Sep (FRH); 215, se. Kendall Co, 25 Aug (DFS).

**Northern Shoveler**

EA: 4 Aug, Rend L (CLH). **MC:** 400, Carl.C, 14 & 28 Oct (DMK, MS); 190, Hennepin L, 23 Nov (DFS).

**Northern Pintail**

EA: 21 Jul, Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co) (DMK, KAM, IOS); 11 Aug, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (TAM, IOS); 24 Aug (2), E. Fork L (CLH); 25 Aug (8), se. Kendall Co (DFS). **MC:** 400, Carl.C, 21 Oct (DMK, MS); 350, Hennepin L, 18 Nov (MJW).

**Green-winged Teal**

EA: 21 Jul (3), Decatur (TAM); 21 Jul (5), Afton FP (DeKalb Co) (EWW). **MC:** 1548, Chau, 24 Nov (RGB, SNB).

**Canvasback**

EA: 13 Oct (3), Jo Daviess Co (EWW). **MC:** 3500, Hancock Co, 15 Nov (AGD); 132, Chau, 16 Nov (RGB, SNB).

**Redhead**

EA: **25 Aug**, Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co) (DTW). **MC:** 2620, Lake Co lakefront, 10 Nov (GAW); 80, Carl.C, 28 Oct (DMK, MS).

**Ring-necked Duck**

EA: 19 Aug, Carl.F (DMK). **MC:** 2000, Carl.C, 23-25 Nov (DMK).

**Greater Scaup**

EA: 13 Oct, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co) (DTW). **MC:** 2748, Lake Co lakefront, 10 Nov (GAW); 2355, IBSP, 9 Nov (GAW).

**Lesser Scaup**

EA: **11 Aug** (pair), Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (TAM, IOS). **MC:** 2500, Hancock Co, 15 Nov (AGD); 800, IBSP, 2 Nov (EWW).

**Harlequin Duck**

EA: 6 Dec (female), Grant P (DFS).

**Surf Scoter**

EA: 13 Oct, see under **MC:** 23 Oct, E. Fork L (CLH); 26 Oct (2), Montrose H (RDH). **MC:** 8, IBSP, 13 Oct (KAM); 8, Carl.C, 13 Oct (MS).

**White-winged Scoter**

EA: 28 Sep (5), Montrose H (GAW); 3 Nov, Carl.C (DMK). **MC:** 5, Montrose H, 28 Sep (GAW); 4, IBSP, 21 Nov (EWW).

**Black Scoter**

EA: 6 Nov (3), IBSP (EWW). **MC:** 4, Gillson P, Wilmette (Cook Co), 18 Nov (AFS).

**Long-tailed Duck**

EA: 15-17 Oct, Linc.P (SBB, m.ob.); 4-18 Nov, Carl.C (DMK et al.). **MC:** 3, Spoon L (Knox Co), 28 Nov (MJB). **Others:** 15 Nov (2), Sam Dale SP (Wayne Co) (CLH, RES).

**Bufflehead**

EA: 10 Sep, Montrose H (RDH); 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS). **MC:** 98, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB); 72, IBSP, 17 Nov (EWW); 50, Carl. C, 23 Nov (DMK).

**Common Goldeneye**

EA: 28 Oct, IBSP (EWW). **MC:** 103, Chau, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB); 80, Carl.C, 24 Nov (DMK, MS); 47, Montrose H, 17 Nov (GAW).

**Hooded Merganser**

**MC:** 132, Saganashkee Slough, 13 Nov (WSS, WJM, SF); 40, Carl.C, 2 Nov (DMK); 28, Hennepin L, 23 Nov (DFS).

**Common Merganser**

EA: 24 Oct, Kankakee (JBH). **MC:** 425, Chi lakefront (SJH).

**Red-breasted Merganser**

EA: 4 Nov (5), Chau (KAM); 7 Nov (56), JP (PRC); 10 Nov (3), Carl. C (DMK). **MC:** **2370**, Burnham P, Chi, 30 Nov (DFS)—second highest fall count (including Dec data); 1080, IBSP, 21 Nov (EWW); 50, Carl.C, 17 Nov (DMK).

**Ruddy Duck**

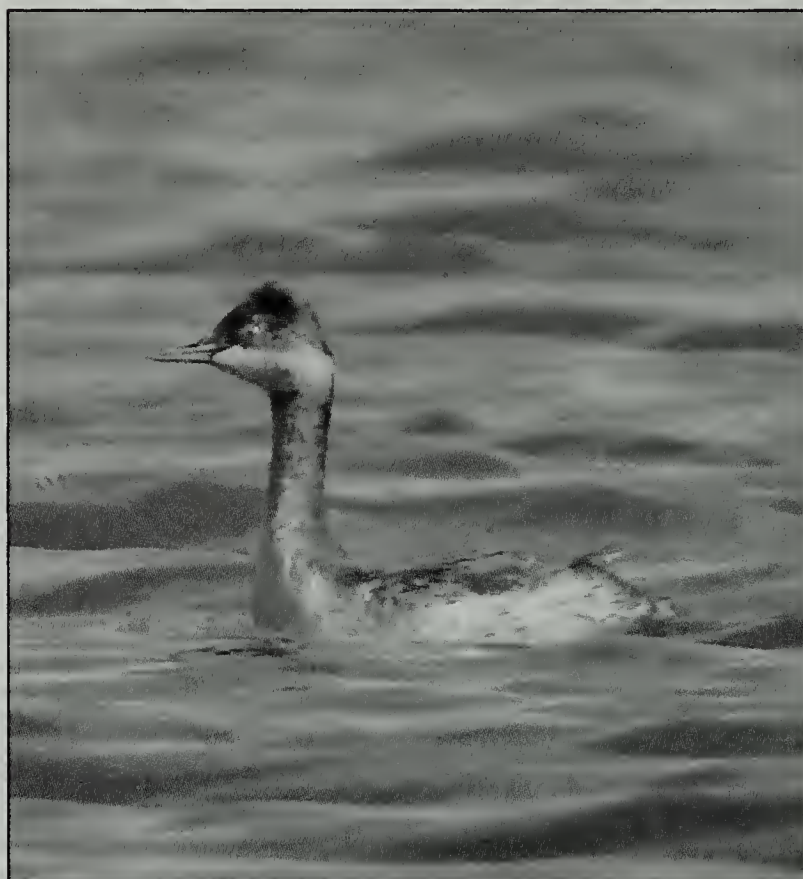
EA: 6 Sep, Hennepin L (DFS). **MC:** 1640, Chau, 26 Oct (RGB, SNB); 600, Carl.C, 3 Nov (DMK, CLH, RES, MS); 600, HL, 31 Oct (KAM).

**Gray Partridge**

No reports.

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

**MC:** 15, Kankakee, 2 Nov (JBH).



*Eared Grebe, Mendota,  
LaSalle County. 25 August 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*



*American White Pelican,  
Independence Grove Forest Preserve,  
Lake County. November 2007.  
Photo by Jim Solum.*

### **Greater Prairie-Chicken**

MC: 59, Prairie Ridge SNA (Jasper/Marion Cos), 27 Nov (RES).

### **Wild Turkey**

MC: **208**, La Salle Co, 30 Nov (CKM, JDM)—**record high count for fall season**; 64, Monroe Co, 29 Nov (DJJ)—record s. IL high count for fall season; 39, Marion Co, 13 Sep (RES); 30, Carl.C, 13 Oct (DMK); 28, Poplar Grove (Boone Co), 11 Nov (AEB).

### **Northern Bobwhite**

MC: 25, Edwards Co, 5 Sep (RES); 18, Annawan (Henry Co), 19 Aug (EWW); 15, Hennepin L, 28 Sep (CKM, JDM).

### **Red-throated Loon**

EA: 14 Oct, IBSP (BH, LK); 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK). LD: 12 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MS et al.); 9 Nov, IBSP (GAW).

### **Pacific Loon**

11-24 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, CLH et al.); 26 Nov, L Shelbyville (EWW).

### **Common Loon**

EA: 12 Oct, Montrose H (LGM); 27 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS). MC: 50+, Carl.C, 12 Nov (KAM).

### **Pied-billed Grebe**

EA: 25 Aug (3), Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co) (EWW). MC: 129, E. Fork L, 14 Nov (CLH); 80, Carl.C, 9 Sep (DMK, MS); 40+, L Decatur, 23 Oct (TAM).

### **Horned Grebe**

EA: 13 Oct (3), Carl.C (DMK). MC: 80, Carl.C, 23 Nov (DMK, MS). LD: into Dec.

### **Red-necked Grebe**

No reports.

### **Eared Grebe**

EA: 25 Aug, Mendota (La Salle Co) (EWW:ph). LD: 24 Nov, E. Fork L (CLH); 23 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 8 Nov (building casualty), Chi (CBCM; spec. to FMNH).

### **Western Grebe**

EA: 17 Oct, Montrose H (RDH). LD: 4-7 Dec, Linc.P (SBB, BS, m.ob.).

### **American White Pelican**

EA: 15 Jul, Swan L (Jersey Co) (KAM); 20 Jul (5), Rend L (CLH). MC: **8000**, Carl.C, 13-14 Oct & 2-4 Nov (DMK et al.); 3211, Chau, 31 Aug (RGB, SNB); 2500, HL, 16 Sep (FRH); 1260+, Rend L, 17 Sep (KAM); 1200, Quincy (Adams Co), 12 Sep (AGD); 725, Centra-lia (Marion Co), 23 Sep (EWW). LD: into Dec in south; 27 Nov, Chi (SJH); 23 Nov (63), Hennepin L (DFS); 17-21 Nov (23), L Decatur (TAM).

### **NEOTROPIC CORMORANT**

22-23 Sep, Carl.C (DMK et al.).

### **Double-crested Cormorant**

MC: 3500, La Salle L, 11 Sep (CKM, JDM); 2015, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); i600, Carl.C, 16 Sep (DMK, WCR).

### **American Bittern**

EA: 27 Sep, IBSP (EWW); 9 Oct, Montrose H (RDH, GAW). MC: **8**, American Bottoms (Monroe Co), 31 Oct (C&PD, DJJ, CAD, PAT)—**record high count outside spring migration peak in April**. LD: 18 Nov, American Bottoms (Monroe Co) (DJJ, C&PD); 5 Nov, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

### **Least Bittern**

EA: 17 Aug, Hennepin L (DFS). LD: 3 Oct, Boone Co (AEB); 1 Sep, Carl.F (DMK, KAM, RES, TAM).

### **Great Blue Heron**

MC: 203, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB); 200, Carl.F, 12 Aug (DMK).

### **Great Egret**

MC: **1800**, HL, 21 Jul (KAM); 1327, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB); 600, Carl.F, 12 Aug (DMK); 475+, Rend L, 17 Sep (KAM). LD: 26 Nov (2), HL (FRH); 22 Nov, Shirland (Winnebago Co) (MK); 17 Nov (4), McGinnis Slough, Palos (CBT).

### **Snowy Egret**

MC: 45, HL, 20 Jul (KAM); 26, Chau, 10 Aug (RGB, SNB); 15, Carl. F, 25 Aug (DMK); 3, LCal, 16 Aug (WJM). LD: **23 Oct** (3), E. Fork L (CLH); 7 Oct, L Bloomington (MJW); 7 Oct, HL (FRH); 16 Sep, Wadsworth (Lake Co) (EWW).

### **Little Blue Heron**

MC: 225, HL, 20 Jul (KAM); 4, LCal, 11 Aug (WJM); 4, Carl.C, 19 Aug (DMK). LD: 12 Sep, LCal (RLS); 1 Sep, Carl.C (DMK).

### **Cattle Egret**

EA: 11 Aug, Fulton (Whiteside Co) (GAW). MC: 5, St. Clair Co, 20 Aug (DMK). LD: 20 Oct, Decatur (TAM, KAM).

### **Green Heron**

EA: 20 Aug, Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co) (EWW). MC: 47, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 3 Aug (RGB, SNB); 39, Amer-ican Bottoms (Monroe Co) (C&PD). LD: 7 Oct, Linc.P (GAW).

### **Black-crowned Night-Heron**

MC: 33, La Salle L, 11 Sep (CKM, JDM).

### **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

MC: 7, LCal, 6 Aug (MAM). LD: 11 Aug (4), LCal (AR, JG).

### ***Plegadis, sp?***

13-14 Oct, American Bottoms (Monroe Co) (C&PD:ph, DJJ).

### **[White-faced Ibis**

LD: **2-20 Oct**, Macon Co.]

### **WOOD STORK**

28 Aug-11 Sep (4 juvs.), Seminary Twp (Fayette Co) (FB, SB, DMK, TAM:ph, et al.).

### **Black Vulture**

MC: 3, Herod (Pope Co), 24 Sep (EWW); 2, Johnson Co, 12 Aug (KAM).

### **Turkey Vulture**

MC: 155, Marion Co, 7 Sep (RES); 128, Sam Parr SWA (Jasper Co), 25 Sep (EWW); 94, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF), 64, Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co) (RAM). LD: 3 Nov, IBSP (IBHW); 2 Nov, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

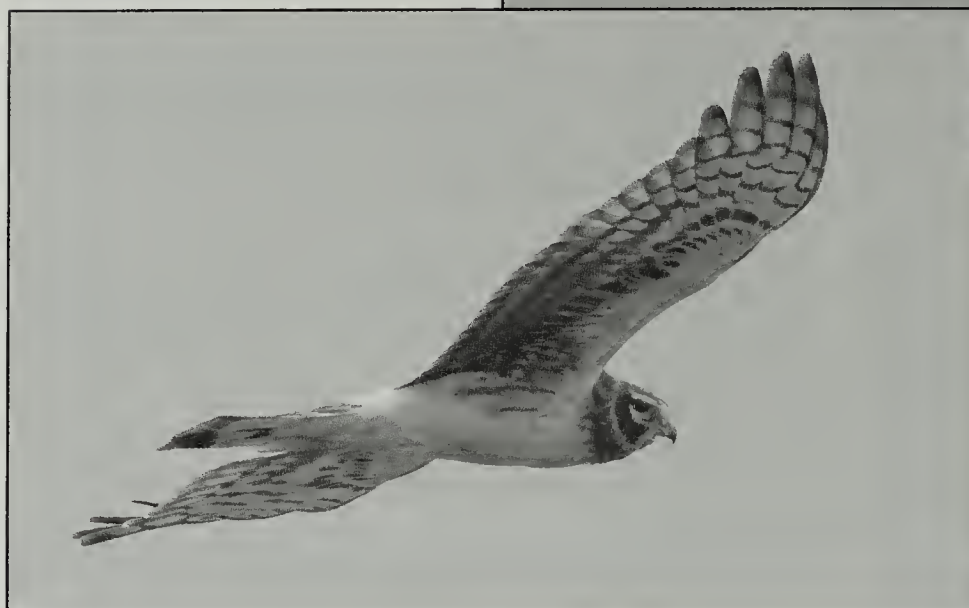
### **Osprey**

EA: 4 Aug, Kankakee (JBH). MC: **37**, IBSP, 11 Sep (IBHW); 5, Carl. C, 16 Sep (DMK, WCR). LD: 6 Nov, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 31 Oct, Decatur (TAM); 21 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS).

### **Mississippi Kite**

EA: 14 Sep (2nd yr), **IBSP** (IBHW, \*PWS). LD: **3-4 Nov** (ad. fe-male), **IBSP** (IBHW; SJH:ph)—**record late date** (previously **30 Oct 1999** and otherwise 24 Sep 1997). This species has been removed from the IORC review list.

*Sharp-shinned Hawk,  
Illinois Beach State Park,  
Lake County.  
30 October 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*



*Northern Harrier, Cambridge,  
Henry County. 11 November 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*

#### **Bald Eagle**

EA: 1 Sep, Wauk (AFS); 2 Sep, IBSP (IBHW). MC: 10, Mason Co, 30 Nov (RGB, SNB).

#### **Northern Harrier**

EA: 10 Aug, Wayne Co (CLH); 19 Aug, Carl.F (DMK). MC: 79, IBSP, 10 Oct (IBHW); 30, Pleasant Mound (Bond Co), 1 Sep (DMK, KAM, RES, TAM); 16, Montrose H, 20 Oct (GAW).

#### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

EA: 27 Aug, Carl.C (KAM). MC: **917**, IBSP, 10 Oct (IBHW)—**record high count** (previously 681 birds, same site, 15 Oct 2005); 153, Greene Vly FP, 10 Oct (REF, KDF); 43, Forest Park (Cook Co), 20 Oct (RAM, ALM); 19, Kankakee, 19 Oct (JBH).

#### **Cooper's Hawk**

MC: **43**, IBSP, 10 Oct (IBHW)—**record high count** (previously 25 birds, same site, 15 Oct 1995); 19, Greene Vly FP, 22 Oct (REF, KDF); 8, Kankakee, 11 Oct (JBH).

#### **Northern Goshawk**

EA: **7 Sep**, IBSP (IBHW); **15 Sep**, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF)—**earliest and third earliest arrival dates**. MC: 2, IBSP, 10 Oct (IBHW); 2, Greene Vly FP, 11 and 15 Oct (REF, KDF). **Others**: 16-22 Nov, Linc.P (GN, m.ob.).

#### **Red-shouldered Hawk**

EA: 22 Sep, IBSP (IBHW); 28 Sep, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF). MC: 4, IBSP, 13 Oct (IBHW).

#### **Broad-winged Hawk**

EA: **14 Jul** (ad.), JP (PRC)—**record early** by five days if true migrant; 10 Aug (road kill), New Salem (Menard Co) (DMK); 12 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 357, Greene Vly FP, 28 Sep (REF, KDF); 158, IBSP, 14 Sep (IBHW); 32+, O'Fallon (St. Clair



Co), 14 Sp (KAM); 12, Fults Hill Prairie (Monroe Co), 13 Sep (DMK). LD: 20 Oct, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

#### **Swainson's Hawk**

MC: 4, McHenry Co, 3 Aug (RAM, ALM). LD: 9 Oct, **IBSP** (IBHW); 17 Aug, McHenry Co (breeding population) (RAM, ALM). **Others**: 14 Sep, **IBSP** (IBHW, \*PWS); 15 Sep, **Rockford** (Winnebago Co) (\*DTW).

#### **Red-tailed Hawk**

MC: 294, IBSP, 10 Oct (IBHW); **204**, Greene Vly FP, 23 Oct (REF, KDF)—**record fall high count** away from IBSP; 40, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK, MS).

#### **Rough-legged Hawk**

EA: 10 Oct, Jasper Co (CLH); 14 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS). MC: **44**, IBSP, 15 Nov (IBHW)—**record fall high count**; 4, Greene Vly FP, 16 Nov (REF).

#### **Golden Eagle**

EA: 9 Oct (2), Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF). 11 Oct, IBSP (IBHW); 27 Oct, Wayne Co (CLH). MC: 2, Greene Vly FP, 9 Oct (REF, KDF). LD: 23 Nov, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 7 Nov, IBSP (IBHW).

#### **American Kestrel**

MC: 23, IBSP, 9 Oct (IBHW); 22, Kankakee, 21 Sep (JBH); 18, LCal, 16 Aug (WJM).

#### **Merlin**

EA: 21 Aug, Kankakee (JBH); 23 Aug, Montrose H (RDH). MC: **708**, IBSP, 9 Oct (IBHW)—**unprecedented IL high count** (previously 154, same site, 15 Oct 2005).

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

EA: 24 Aug, Kankakee (JBH); 1 Sep, IBSP (IBHW); 28 Sep, Richland Co (CLH). MC: **85**, IBSP, 9 Oct (IBHW)—**record IL high count** (previously 47, same site, 24 Sep 2004). **Other**: 11 Nov, Champaign (Champaign Co) (Jackie Roy ph, SDB).

*Red-tailed Hawk with snake.  
21 October 2007.  
Photo by Frank Angiler.*

*Immature  
Peregrine Falcon  
with starling,  
Champaign,  
Champaign county.  
9 November 2007.  
Photo by  
Jackie Roy.*



#### **PRAIRIE FALCON**

**31 Aug**, McHenry Dam (McHenry Co) (\*CSF)—**record early arrival**; **23 Sep** (\*SAC) & 6 Oct (\*KSc), Nelson L Marsh FP (Kane Co); 3 Nov, IBSP (IBHW, SJH:ph).

#### **Yellow Rail**

**EA**: 11 Sep, Prairie Ridge SNA (Marion Co) (RES). **LD**: 23 Oct, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 20 Oct, IBSP (EWW); 13 Oct (caught and killed by dog), Oakwood Twp (Vermilion Co) (Richard Larimore).

#### **BLACK RAIL**

26 Sept & 5 Oct (different birds), Vance Twp (Vermilion Co) (James Smith); [29 Aug, Monroe Co.]

#### **King Rail**

**LD**: 16 Aug, Chau (KBR).

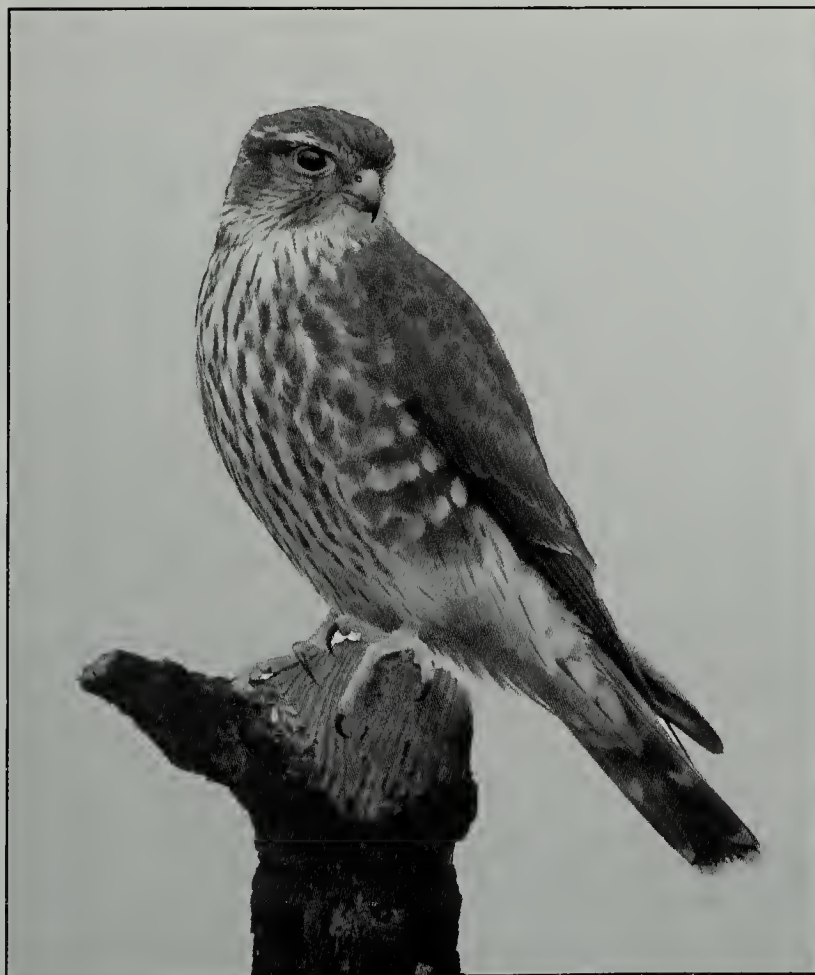
#### **Virginia Rail**

**EA**: 8 Sep, Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co) (DFS). **LD**: 24 Oct, Prairie Ridge SNA (Jasper Co) (RES).

*Piping Plover,  
Montrose,  
Cook County.*

*8 September 2007.*

*Photo by Craig Thayer.*



#### **Sora**

**EA**: 4 Aug, L Bloomington (MJW); 10 Aug (building strike), Chi (CBCM). **MC**: 10, HL, 4 Oct (KAM); 6, Rochelle (Ogle Co), 9 Sep (EWW); 6, HL, 30 Sep (FRH). **LD**: 22 Oct, HL (FRH); 13 Oct, Carl. C (DMK).

#### **Common Moorhen**

**EA**: 25 Aug, Rochelle (Ogle Co) (EWW). **MC**: 6, HL, 12 Aug (FRH). **LD**: 31 Oct, American Bottoms (Monroe Co) (C&PD); 7 Oct, HL (FRH).

#### **American Coot**

**MC**: 7581, Chau, 2 Nov (RGB,SNB); 3600, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co), 4 Nov (KAM); 3100, Decatur, 20 Oct (KAM, TAM); 2950, Lock and Dam #13 (Whiteside Co), 13 Oct (EWW).

#### **Sandhill Crane**

**EA**: 15 Sep (2), IBSP (SJH); 27 Sep (6), Berwyn (Cook Co) (GN). **MC**: **3795**, Greene Vly FP, 15 Nov (REF, KDF); 1705, IBSP, 14 Nov (IBHW); 325, Kankakee, 27 Nov (JBH). **LD**: into Dec.

#### **Black-bellied Plover**

**EA**: 28 Jul, Montrose H (KH); 10 Aug (3+), Mason Co (IOS). **MC**: 11, Momence (Kankakee Co), 25 Aug (GAW); 10, Calumet P, 20 Oct



(WJM); 9, IBSP, 4 Oct (EWW, DW); 8, Decatur, 23 Aug (TAM). **LD**: 2 Nov, Montrose H (RDH); 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 21 Oct (2), Calumet P, LCal (WJM).

#### **American Golden-Plover**

**EA**: 19 Aug, Carl.F (DMK). **MC**: 50, Kendall Co, 2 Sep (UWG); 37, Decatur, 4 Aug (TAM). **LD**: 9 Oct, Montrose H (GAW).

#### **WILSON'S PLOVER**

1-8 Aug, Rainbow Beach, Chi (PKD: ph, TFK, m. ob.).

#### **Semipalmated Plover**

**EA**: 14 Jul, Decatur (TAM); 15 Jul, Montrose H (GAW); 20 Jul, Rend L (CLH). **MC**: **100**, Chau, 10 Aug (DMK, SDB, TAM). **LD**: 8 Oct (3), Carl.F (DMK, MS).

#### **Piping Plover**

**EA**: 3-5 Aug, Wauk (EWW, m.ob.). **LD**: 9 Oct, Montrose H (SS, NLB, GAW); 7 Oct, IBSP (AFS, KAM).

#### **Killdeer**

**MC**: 922, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB); 750, Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co), 21 Jul (TAM, IOS).

*Merlin, Illinois Beach State Park,  
Lake County. 6 November 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*

### American Avocet

EA: 4 Jul, JP (PRC); 12 Jul, Afton FP (DeKalb Co) (DJS). MC: **36**, Calumet P, LCal, 20 Oct (WJM)—**record high count by two birds**; 16, L Bloomington, 26 Aug (MJW). LD: 20 Oct (36), Calumet P, LCal (WJM).

### Spotted Sandpiper

MC: **115**, Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co), 21 Jul (TAM, IOS)—**record high count** by 35 birds; 24, Chau, 10 Aug (DMK, SDB, TAM); 22, LCal, 18 Aug (WJM, GAW, COS). LD: 2 Nov, Kankakee (JBH); 19 Oct, Linc.P (GN); 19 Oct, Carl.C (KAM); 17 Oct, White Oak L (McLean Co) (MJW).

### Solitary Sandpiper

EA: 4 Jul, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (MJF); 6 Jul (3), LCal (WJM); 7 Jul, Decatur (TAM). MC: 42, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 4 Aug (WSS). LD: 7 Oct (6), McGinnis Slough, Palos (WJM); 7 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 4 Oct, Madison Co (KAM).

### Greater Yellowlegs

EA: 24 Jun, Decatur (TAM); 14 Jul, Rend L (CLH). MC: 237, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB). LD: 12 Nov, Montrose H (GAW); 11 Nov (2), L Bloomington (MJW); 10 Nov, Rochelle (Ogle Co) (EWW).

### Willet

EA: 26 Jun, Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (Du Page Co) (JLS); 27 Jun, Montrose H (RDH); 27 Jul (4), Decatur (TAM). MC: **91**, Montrose H, 1 Aug (JHP)—third highest IL count. LD: 7 Sep, Montrose H (RDH, SJH).

### Lesser Yellowlegs

EA: 4 Jul, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (MJF); 11 Jul, Decatur (TAM); 14 Jul, Rend L (CLH). MC: 3000, Chau, 2 Aug (KBR). LD: **22 Nov**, Shirland (Winnebago Co) (MK)—record late date for n. IL.

### Upland Sandpiper

EA: 20 Jul, Rend L (CLH); 4 Aug, Rochelle (Ogle Co) (DFS). MC: 10, Decatur airport, 5 Aug (TAM). LD: 25 Aug, Momence (Kankakee Co) (GAW); 23 Aug, Decatur airport (TAM).

### Whimbrel

EA: 24 Jul, Montrose H (KKM). MC: 6, Montrose H, 24 Aug (GAW).



*American Avocet,  
Will County. 31 August 2007.  
Photo by Wes Serafin.*



*Red Knot,  
Montrose,  
Cook County  
17 August 2007.  
Photo by  
Steve Huggins.*

LD: 15 Sep, IBSP (SJH:ph); 12 Sep, Montrose H (RDH); 25 Aug, Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co) (DTW).

### Hudsonian Godwit

LD: 16 Sep, Chau (KBR).

### Marbled Godwit

EA: 10-12 Aug, Chau (RGB, SNB, DMK, SDB, TAM); 13 Aug, L Bloomington (MJW et al.).

### Ruddy Turnstone

EA: 27 Jul, Montrose H (SBB). MC: 12, Montrose H, 7 Sep (RDH). LD: **22 Dec**, Wauk (DW, AFS, RE, MLT)—**record IL late date**; 2 Dec, Rainbow Beach, Chi (RDH); 14 Sep, Carl.L (KAM).

### Red Knot

EA: 17 Aug, Montrose H (SJH:ph). MC: 3, Lake Co, 25 Aug (DTW). LD: 6 Oct, Montrose H (m.ob.); 14-20 Sep, Decatur (TAM).

### Sanderling

EA: 14 Jul (5), Wauk (AFS); 18 Jul (2), Decatur (TAM). MC: 45, Wauk (EWW, JRS); 39, Montrose H, 25 Aug (GAW). LD: **28 Nov**, Wauk (EWW).

### Semipalmated Sandpiper

EA: **26 Jun**, Montrose H (RDH). MC: **1587**, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB). LD: 4 Nov (3), Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (Du Page Co) (WJM, DK).

### Western Sandpiper

EA: 20 Jul, Rend L (CLH); 29 Jul, Carl.F (KAM); 19 Aug, Montrose H (LK). MC: 4, Chau, 10 Aug (DMK, SDB, TAM). LD: 17 Sep, Rend L (KAM).

### Least Sandpiper

EA: 27 Jun, Montrose H (RDH); 7 Jul (12), Decatur (TAM). MC: 477, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB); 250+, Swan L (Jersey Co), 21 Jul (KAM). LD: 18 Nov, Rochelle (Ogle Co) (EWW); 4 Nov (4), Fermi (WJM, PK); 31 Oct (7), New Athens (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS).

### White-rumped Sandpiper

EA: 15 Aug, Decatur (TAM). MC: 4, Rochelle (Ogle Co), 9 Sep (EWW). LD: 2 Oct (2), Montrose H (RDH, LB).



*Whimbrel, Illinois Beach State Park,  
north unit, Lake County.  
15 September 2007.  
Photo by Steve Huggins.*

*Western Sandpiper, right,  
at Montrose, Cook County.  
20 August 2007.  
Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.*



*Long-billed Dowitcher,  
Annawan, Henry County.  
13 October 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*

#### **Baird's Sandpiper**

EA: 29 Jul, Wayne Co (CLH); 4 Aug, LCal (WJM, AFS). MC: 8, Montrose H, 7-8 Sep (RDH, SJH, GAW). LD: 20 Oct, Wauk (AFS); 20 Oct (2), Carl.C (DMK, MS).

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper**

EA: **24 Jun**, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co) (DFS); 14 Jul, Decatur (TAM). MC: 5000, Chau, 16 Aug (KAM); 2250, Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co), 20 Jul (TAM, IOS). LD: 13 Nov, McGinnis Slough, Palos (WJM, WSS, SF).

#### **Purple Sandpiper**

EA/MC: 2, Wauk, 23 Nov (EWW). LD: into Dec.

#### **Dunlin**

EA: **5 Jul**, Montrose H (GAW:ph)—second earliest arrival by a day; 21 Aug, Wauk (EWW); 29 Sep, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 20, Carl. C, 8 Oct (DMK). LD: 2 Dec, Rainbow Beach, Chi (RDH); 6 Nov (2), Montrose H (GAW).

#### **Stilt Sandpiper**

EA: 14 Jul, Rollins Savanna FP (Lake Co) (AFS); 21 Jul (5), Swan L (Jersey Co) (KAM). MC: **369**, Chau, 3 Aug (RGB, SNB). LD: 20 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 28 Sep (2), Decatur (TAM).

#### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

EA: **27 Jul**, Decatur (TAM); 4 Aug (8), Rend L (CLH). MC: 34, McLean Co, 8 Sep (KBR); 18, Dunham Road sod farms (McHenry Co), 1 Sep (GAW); 17, Kendall Co, 1 Sep (CMA); 11, McLean Co, 29 Aug (MJW). LD: 22 Sep, Momence (Kankakee Co) (RDH); 20 Sep, Decatur (TAM, KAM).

#### **[RUFF]**

29-30 Aug, McHenry Co].

#### **Short-billed Dowitcher**

EA: 8 Jul (2), LCal (WJM); 11 Jul, Decatur (TAM). MC: 200, Chau, 10 Aug (DMK, SDB, TAM); 57, Montrose H, 25 Aug (GAW). LD: 23 Sep, Will Co (AA).

#### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

EA: **14 Jul**, Afton FP (DeKalb Co) (EWW)—second earliest arrival by three days; 6 Aug (3), Decatur (TAM); 8 Sep, Carl.C (KAM). MC: 7, Decatur, 20 Oct (TAM). LD: 11 Nov, Bond Co (CAT, TLK); 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 24 Oct, Henry Co (AFS).

*Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Waukegan,  
Lake County. 13 September 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*

#### **Wilson's Snipe**

EA: 4 Aug, LCal (WJM). MC: 32, Gaskin L (Clay Co), 8 Nov (CLH); 25, Chau, 2 Nov (RGB, SNB).

#### **American Woodcock**

EA: 22 Sep (building casualty), Chi (CBCM; spec. to FMNH); 14 Oct, Carl.C (MS). MC: 6, downtown Chi, 25 Oct (CBCM). LD: 15 Nov (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 11 Nov, IBSP (KAM); 10 Nov, New Athens (St. Clair Co) (DMK).

#### **Wilson's Phalarope**

EA: 11 Jul (3), Decatur (TAM). MC: 11, se. Kendall Co, 25 Aug (DFS); 7, Decatur, 23 Aug (TAM). LD: 7 Sep, L Bloomington (MJW, DEB).

#### **Red-necked Phalarope**

EA: 10 Aug, Chau (TAM, SDB, DMK, IOS). MC: 3, Chau, 12 Aug (TAM, MST); 3, Carl.L, 17 Sep (KAM). LD: 2 Oct, Decatur (TAM).



### Red Phalarope

EA: 1 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, TAM, RES, MS). LD: 6 Dec, Lake Forest (Lake Co) (GBR, CEG, JOS); 23 Sep, Centralia (Marion Co) (EWW).

### Laughing Gull

EA: 15 Jul, Decatur (TAM); 29 Jul, Carl.F (KAM); 4 Aug, Rend L (CLH, DMK:ph). LD: 13 Oct, Carl.C (DMK).

### Franklin's Gull

EA: 24 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). MC: 120, Carl.C, 20 & 21 Oct (DMK, MS). LD: 2 Nov, Carl.C (DMK).

### LITTLE GULL

[EA: 20 Sep, Grundy Co.] MC: 2 (ad.), Carl.C, 22 Nov, one present to 26 Nov (BR, DMK:ph, TAM:ph, m.ob.).



*Sabine's Gull, Carlyle Lake, Clinton County.  
22 September 2007. Photo by Eric Walters.*

### Bonaparte's Gull

EA: 7 Jul, Decatur (TAM)—second earliest arrival away from L Michigan; 20 Jul, HL (KAM); 25 Jul, Rend L (CLH); 26 Jul, JP (KMC). MC: 1200, Carl.C, 17 Nov (DMK); 750+, Clinton L, 26 Nov (EWW).

### Ring-billed Gull

MC: 3500+, Carl.L, 19 Oct (KAM); 2700, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 3 Nov (WSS); 2125, IBSP, 15 Sep (EWW).

### California Gull

17 Nov, Independence Grove FP (Lake Co) (RDH:ph); 24 Nov, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (RDH:ph).

### Herring Gull

MC: 1710, IBSP, 9 Nov (GAW).

### Thayer's Gull

EA: 17 Sep (ad.), Grant P (DFS)—earliest September date (but note records on 17 Aug 2002 and 29 Aug 2006); 12 Oct, Montrose H (SBB). MC: 7, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 23 Nov (SJH); 4 (ad.), IBSP, 9 Nov (GAW).

### Iceland Gull

EA: 23 Nov (1st yr), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (SJH).

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

EA: 11 Aug, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (EWW)—record early for August by seven days (but note migrant status now obscured by July records dating to 1990); 8 Sep, Wauk (AFS); 10 Sep, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF). MC: 5, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (3 ad, 2nd yr, 1st yr), 4 Nov (SJH); 4 (3 ad., 1st yr), IBSP, 9 Nov (GAW).

### GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL

8-14 Sep & 23 Nov into winter, Carl.C (DMK, m.ob.).

### Glaucous Gull

EA: 19 Nov (1st yr), Lock & Dam #14 (Rock Island Co) (SMF).

### Great Black-backed Gull

EA: 28 Nov (1st yr), Montrose H (RDH).

### Sabine's Gull

EA: 8 Sep (2), Carl.C (DMK, TAM, KAM, MS); 16 Sep, Chau (KBR, LMA); 16 Sep, L Shelbyville (TAM, MFD); 20 Sep, Heidecke L (Grundy Co) (SAC). MC: 3, Carl.C, 22 Sep, 3 Oct, 6 Oct & 21 Oct (DMK, KAM, IOS, MS). LD: 28 Oct (3), Chau (RLJ).

### Black-legged Kittiwake

22 Nov (1st yr), Gillson P, Wilmette (Cook Co) (RDH).

### Least Tern

EA: 2 Jul, E. Fork L (CLH). MC: 4, HL, 24 Aug (FRH). LD: 4 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (DMK, CLH).

### Caspian Tern

EA: 24 Jun, Decatur (TAM); 30 Jun, Rend L (CLH). MC: 35, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 4 Aug (WSS); 28, Carl.C, 8 Sep (TAM, KAM, MS); 25, Rend L (DMK). LD: 23 Oct (2), Decatur (TAM); 15 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 14 Oct (2), JP (PRC, KMC).

### Black Tern

EA: 14 Jul, Decatur (TAM); 4 Aug, Rend L (Jefferson Co) (DMK); 7 Aug (4), E. Fork L (CLH); 9 Aug (8), McGinnis Slough, Palos (WJM, WSS). MC: **400**, Carl.C, 10 Sep (DMK, RES)—ties for second highest fall count; 40, Decatur, 24 Aug (TAM). LD: 22 Sep (6), Decatur (TAM); 22 Sep (8), Carl.L (KAM).

### Common Tern

EA: 3 Aug, E. Fork L (CLH). MC: 20, Carl.C, 8-9 Sep (DMK, MS). LD: 29 Sep, Montrose H (GAW).

### ARCTIC TERN

8-9 Sep, Carl.C (FRH, MST:ph)—**eighth IL record** accepted by the IORC. The other records are from May through July in the years 1992-2001. There is one older report from fall, on 3 Oct 1986, which is very likely valid but which was a single-observer sight record and thus did not meet acceptance criteria for a first state record.

### Forster's Tern

EA: 14 Jul, Rend L (CLH). MC: 40, Carl.C, 9 Sep (DMK, MS). LD: 4 Nov, Carl.F (DMK, MS); 28 Oct, Chau (RLJ); 22 Oct, Montrose H (GAW).

### Jaeger, sp?

22 Nov, JP (PKD).

### PARASITIC JAEGER

8-12 Sep (2 juvs), Carl.C (DMK et al.); [14 Sep (juv.), Cook Co]; [28 Oct (dark ad.), Lake Co].

### LONG-TAILED JAEGER

6-8 Oct (juv.), Carl.C (DMK, IOS).

### Rock Dove

MC: 760, s. Cook Co, 27 Sep (DFS); 400, Kankakee, 12-14 Nov (JBH).

### Eurasian Collared-Dove

MC: 58, Jasper Co, 14 Nov (RES); 49, Monroe Co, 14 Nov (DJJ).

### **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**

7-9 Nov, St. Joseph (Champaign Co) (Brock Price ph, SDB, et al. ph).

### **Mourning Dove**

MC: 820, sw. Cook Co, 3 Nov (WSS)—**record fall high count** by twenty birds; 500, Monroe Co, 13 Oct (DJJ); 411, Kendall Co, 25 Aug (DFS).

### **Monk Parakeet**

MC: 52, LCal, 27 Sep (DFS).

### **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

MC: 5, Rice L SFWA (Fulton Co), 3 Aug (SDB); 4, Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS); 2, Carl.L, 1 Sep (KAM). LD: 24 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 20 Oct, Middlefork Savanna FP (Lake Co) (DRD).

### **Black-billed Cuckoo**

EA: 26 Jul, downtown Chi (EJT); 28 Jul, JP (KMC); 12 Aug, Banner Marsh FWA (Fulton Co) (TAM, IOS). LD: 26 Sep, Linc.P (GAW, NPBW); 24 Sep (building casualty), Chi (CBCM; spec. to FMNH).

### **Barn Owl**

5 Aug, Wayne Co (RES:ph, CLH); 26 Aug-22 Sep, Clinton Co (DMK: ph, et al.); 10 Nov (found dead), Clinton Co (DMK).

### **Eastern Screech-Owl**

MC: 2, Saline Co, 24 Sep (EWW).

### **Great Horned Owl**

MC: 4, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK).

### **Snowy Owl**

EA: 14 Nov, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 26-27 Nov, Montrose H (KKM et al.).

### **Barred Owl**

MC: 3, Mackinaw Bluffs Corridor (Woodford Co), 3 Nov (MEF).

### **Long-eared Owl**

EA: 22 Nov (2), Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (MJW); 22 Nov (2), Kankakee (JBH); 22 Nov, Montrose H (TFK). MC: 10, Stickney Run CA (McHerny Co), 26 Nov (SDB); 5, Kankakee, 25 Nov (JBH); 4, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co), 24 Nov (SDB).

### **Short-eared Owl**

EA: 7 Oct, Montrose H (RDH, KAM); 10 Oct, JP (PRC, JN). MC: 6, Ferrin (Clinton Co), 23 Nov (DMK); 3, Montrose H, 20-21 Oct (SS, RDH); 3, Nachusa Grasslands (Ogle Co), 19 Nov (JH).

### **Northern Saw-whet Owl**

EA: 29 Oct, Wauk (SDB, SLD); 11 Nov, Carl.C (DMK); 17 Nov, Green River (Franklin Co) (LS).

### **Common Nighthawk**

MC: 1347, Kankakee, 25 Aug (JBH)—see note; 868, Linc.P, 28 Aug (SJH); 248, Lake Co, 4 Sep (DFS). LD: 9 Oct, Decatur (TAM); 8 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 6 Oct, Breese (Clinton Co) (DMK, IOS). **Note:** While flights in excess of 1000 birds were formerly routine, the 2006-2007 seasons mark the first time in 20 years that such counts have been reported in adjacent years.

### **Whip-poor-will**

MC: LD: 26 Sep, Grant P (DFS); 27 Sep see previous; 26 Sep (building strike), Chi (CBCM).

### **Chimney Swift**

MC: 680, Montrose H, 17 Sep (GAW); 665, Kankakee, 1 Sep (JBH); 350, McGinnis Slough, Palos, 30 Sep (WJM). LD: 24 Oct (20), Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF); 20 Oct, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KAM); 18 Oct, Belleville (St. Clair Co) (DMK); 16 Oct (2), L Decatur (TAM).



*Short-eared Owl, Montrose, Cook County. 20 October 2007. Photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.*

*Leucistic Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Mahomet, Champaign County. 2 September 2007. Photo by Nancy Kimpel.*



### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

EA: 29 Jul, Montrose H (GAW). MC: 150, West Frankfort (Franklin Co), 5 Sep (LS); 21, LCal, 9 Sep (WJM); 20+, Carl.B, 8 Sep (KAM); 20, Hardin Co, 24 Sep (EWW). LD: 8-12 Nov (imm. male), Grant P (SML, KSw, TSS); 2 Nov, West Frankfort (Franklin Co) (LS); 29 Oct, Rockford (Winnebago Co) (DTW)—**two record late dates for n. IL and record late date for s. IL** (previously 27 Oct 2002 for both these sections of IL). **Other:** late Aug – early Sept (leucistic bird at feeder), Mahomet (Champaign Co) (fide SDB,v).

### ***Selasphorus, sp?***

3 Oct (imm. male), Vernon Hills (Lake Co) (GM:ph).

### **Rufous Hummingbird**

6 Sep (ad. male), Aledo (Mercer Co) (JK; ph).

### **Belted Kingfisher**

MC: 6, Carl.C, 21 Oct (DMK, MS); 5, Kankakee, 2 Aug (JBH).

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

EA: 3 Sep, JP (KMC). MC: 10, Kankakee, 12 Sep (JBH).

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker**

EA: 20 Sep, Linc.P (GN); 9 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 10 Oct, JP (PRC). MC: 20, Kickapoo SP (Vermilion Co), 7 Oct (RAM, ALM); 14, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS); 13, Carl.C, 3 Oct (KAM). LD: 20 Oct, Montrose H (GAW).

### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

EA: 12 Sep, Kankakee (JBH); 13 Sep, Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (EWW); 29 Sep (4), Carl.C (DMK); 29 Sep, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KAM). MC: 35, Grant P (DFS), 32, Linc.P (North Pond area) (GAW, NPBW), 24, Linc.P (South Pond area) (GN)—all on 26 Sep; previous fall high counts are 45 (1 Oct 2003) and 25 (4 Oct 2005), both from Grant P. LD: into Dec.

### **Downy Woodpecker**

MC: 21, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS); 12, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK).

*Northern Shrike, Illinois Beach  
State Park, Lake County.  
3 November 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*



### **Hairy Woodpecker**

**MC:** 7, Salt Crk Wds, 16 Sep (DFS); 6, Kankakee, 26 Nov (JBH); 6, Carl.C, 8 Oct (DMK, MS).

### **Northern Flicker**

**EA:** 17 Aug, Montrose H (GAW). **MC:** 30, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK, MS); 30, JP, 26 Sep (PRC); 27, Thatcher Wds FP (Cook Co), 24 Sep (JSA).

### **Pileated Woodpecker**

**MC:** 4, Carl.F, 1 Sep (DMK, TAM, KAM, RES). **Others:** 23 Nov to end of period (2), Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (UWG et al.).

### **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

**EA:** 14 Aug, JP (KMC); 15 Aug, Stoney Ford FP (Cook Co) (JD); 8 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, TAM, KAM, MS). **MC:** 3, Marshall Co, 6 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 7 Oct, Linc.P (GN)—third latest departure; 21 Sep, Kankakee (JBH); 17 Sep, Jasper Co (CLH).

### **Eastern Wood-Pewee**

**EA:** 21 Aug, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 35, Carl.C, 27 Aug (KAM); 27, Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS); 15, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 14 Oct, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (TAM); 11 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 9 Oct, Montrose H (NB); 7 Oct, JP (PRC).

### **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

**EA:** 13 Aug, Macoupin Co (CAT, TLK); 17 Aug, Kankakee (JBH). **LD:** 26 Sep, Linc.P (GN); 22 Sep, Kankakee (JBH).

### **Acadian Flycatcher**

**MC:** 8, Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS)—fall high count outside s. IL. **LD:** 26 Sep, Fall Creek (Adams Co) (AGD); 24 Sep, Tower Rock (Hardin Co) (EWW); 15 Sep, Carl.C (DMK).

### **Alder Flycatcher**

**MC/LD:** 15 Sep (2), Carl.C (DMK, CLH).

### **Willow Flycatcher**

**LD:** 26 Sep, Linc.P (GN); 14 Sep, Carl.C (KAM); 12 Sep, Montrose H (GAW).

### **Least Flycatcher**

**EA:** 15 Jul, JP (PRC); 17 Aug, Montrose H (COG). **MC:** 8, Grant P, 26 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 8 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 7 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 7 Oct, Montrose H (GAW); 30 Sep, JP (PRC).

### **Eastern Phoebe**

**EA:** 3 Sep, Linc.P (GAW). **MC:** 12, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK); 6, Du Page Co, 9 Sep (DFS).

### **Great Crested Flycatcher**

**EA:** 21 Aug, JP (KMC). **MC:** 5, Grundy Co, 1 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 26 Sep, JP (PRC); 16 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, WCR).

### **Western Kingbird**

**LD:** 1 Sep, Joppa (Massac Co) (FKB).

### **Eastern Kingbird**

**MC:** 40, Carl.C, 26 Aug (DMK); 15, Lee Co, 22 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 22 Sep, Carl.C (TAM, TDF).

### **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**

**14-20 Oct**, Clinton Co (DMK et al.).

### **Loggerhead Shrike**

**MC:** 4, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 10 Nov (DMK, IOS); 3, Jasper Co, 25 Oct (RES); 2, Clinton Co, 26 Aug (DMK). **LD:** 26 Nov, Tazewell Co (JM).

### **Northern Shrike**

**EA:** 20 Oct, IBSP (DBJ); at least 5 birds reported on 21 Oct in Cook and Lake Cos (m.ob.). **MC:** 3, Lake Co, 5 Nov (SDB); 2, Greene Vly FP, 23 Nov to end of period (JAS, m.ob.); 2, IBSP, 17 Nov (EWW); 2, Rock Cut SP (Winnebago Co), 25 Nov (DTW). **Others:** (southern reports) 2-4 Nov, Clinton Co (DMK:ph et al.); 8-11 Nov, Banner Marsh FWA (Fulton Co) (KBR); 10 Nov, ClinL (GSL, et al.); 12 Nov, Meredosia NWR (Morgan Co) (BA); 28 Nov, Murrayville (Brown Co) (TW); 28 Nov, Jim Edgar SFWA (Cass Co) (CS). **Note:** Steve Bailey collected sightings of this species in Illinois fall and winter 2007-2008, and by the end of November he had received 63 reports in 23 counties. I received reports of an additional three birds in one more county giving a total of 66 birds in 24 counties by the end of November. As far as I can tell this is the largest number of fall records ever.

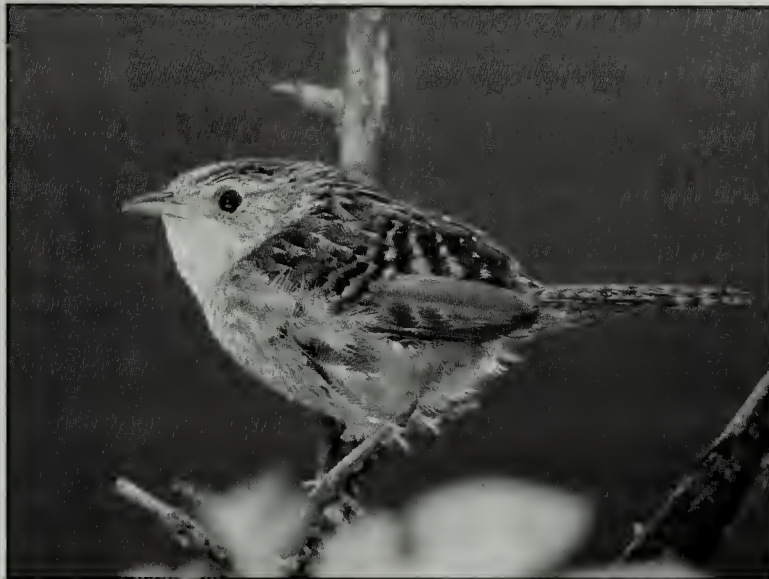
### **White-eyed Vireo**

**MC:** 8, Tower Rock (Hardin Co), 24 Sep (EWW); 6, Carl.C, 29 Sep (DMK, MS). **LD:** 14 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS).



*Hairy Woodpecker at suet feeder, Zion, Lake County.  
4 October 2007. Photo by Eric Walters.*

*Sedge Wren,  
Henry County.  
20 August 2007.  
Photo by Eric Walters.*



#### **Bell's Vireo**

LD: 9 Sep, HL (FRH); 9 Sep, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD).

#### **Yellow-throated Vireo**

MC: 8, I&M Canal (Will/Grundy Co), 1 Sep (DFS)—record fall high count for n. IL, tying fall high counts from s. and c. IL; 6, w. of Mount Carroll (Carroll Co), 8 Sep (EWW). LD: 10 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 3 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

#### **Blue-headed Vireo**

EA: 23 Aug, Grant P (DFS). MC: 6, Carl.C, 29 Sep (DMK, MS). LD: 28 Oct (3), Carl.C (DMK, MS); 27 Oct, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (TAM); 23 Oct, Kankakee (JBH).

#### **Warbling Vireo**

MC: 14 (breeding population), Beaubien Wds FP, Chi, 4 Sep (DFS); 14, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK, MS)—record fall high count for s. IL, tying previous fall high count statewide. LD: 2 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 30 Sep (5), Carl.C (DMK, MS); 27 Sep, LCal (WJM).

#### **Philadelphia Vireo**

EA: 24 Aug, Ewing P, Bloomington (MJW); 27 Aug, Carl.C (KAM). MC: 4, Du Page Co, 13 Sep (DFS); 3, Carl.C, 30 Sep (DMK, MS); 2, Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 22 Sep (AFS). LD: 20 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS)—record late date for s. IL; 10 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 6 Oct, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (REF, KDF).

#### **Red-eyed Vireo**

EA: 23 Aug, Grant P (DFS). MC: 26, Thatcher Wds FP (Cook Co), 26 Aug (JSA); 24, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS); 20, Aux Sable Creek (Kendall Co), 25 Aug (DFS); 16, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK). LD: 8 Oct, Montrose H (GAW).

#### **Blue Jay**

MC: 300, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK, MS); 95, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 3 Oct (LLH); 54, Salt Crk Wds, 16 Sep (DFS).

#### **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER**

3-7 Nov, IBSP (EWW:ph,DBJ,SDB, m.ob.).

#### **American Crow**

MC: 295, Clay City (Clay Co), 24 Sep (EWW); 125, Linc.P, 30 Aug (GAW).

#### **Fish Crow**

MC: 25, HL, 26 Aug (FRH). LD: 8 Sep, Carl.C (KAM); 28 Aug (3), Quincy (Adams Co) (AGD).

#### **COMMON RAVEN**

13 Oct, IBSP (IBHW, SJH:ph).

#### **Horned Lark**

MC: 500, Carl.C, 18 Nov (DMK); 455, Momence (Kankakee Co), 24 Aug (JBH).

#### **Purple Martin**

MC: 165, Pike Co, 15 Jul (KAM); 60, Carl.C, 12 Aug (DMK). LD: 20 Oct, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (TAM)—second latest IL departure date (latest is 30 Oct 1984, Carl.L).

#### **Tree Swallow**

MC: 6000, Carl.C, 13 Oct (DMK); 750+, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 7 Oct (TAM). LD: 4 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 27 Oct (10), L Mattoon (Shelby Co) (TAM).

#### **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

MC: 600, Quincy (Adams Co), 28 Aug (AGD); 460, e. La Salle Co, 27 Aug (CKM, JDM); 305, Kankakee, 23 Aug (JBH). LD: 24-30 Nov, E. Fork L (CLH); 22-23 Nov, Carl.C (DMK:ph, JPU:ph)—record IL late dates (previously 22 Nov 1985); 4 Oct, Greene Vly FP (REF, KDF).

#### **Bank Swallow**

MC: 500, Chau, 10 Aug (DMK, SDB, TAM). LD: 17 Sep (2), Kankakee (JBH).

#### **Cliff Swallow**

MC: 100+, Swan L (Jersey Co), 15 Jul (KAM); 60, Carl.C, 12 Aug (DMK). LD: 16 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, WCR); 15 Sep, IBSP (SJH).

#### **Barn Swallow**

MC: 200, Carl.C, 19 Aug (DMK, MS); 85, Mason Co, 16 Aug (KAM). LD: 4 Nov, Carl.C (DMK); 21 Oct, Northerly I (SJH); Middlefork Savanna FP (Lake Co) (DRD).

#### **Carolina Chickadee**

MC: 26, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK).

#### **Black-capped Chickadee**

MC: 53, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS).

#### **Tufted Titmouse**

MC: 27, Carl.C, 27 Aug (KAM).

#### **Red-breasted Nuthatch**

EA: 20 Jul, Linc.P (GN)—record early arrival (previously 6 Aug 1997) if genuine migrant; 2 Aug, Libertyville (Lake Co) (JOS); 7 Aug, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (REF, KDF). MC: 37, IBSP, 10 Nov (DTW); 12-15, Forbes SP (Marion Co), 16 Oct (CLH); 12+, Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co), 10 Nov (UWG); 10+, Sam Dale SP (Wayne Co), 5 Oct (CLH); 10, JP, 16 Sep (PRC).

#### **White-breasted Nuthatch**

EA: 16 Aug-8 Sep, Linc.P (MGG, JHP, GAW). MC: 17, Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS); 17, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS); 16, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK). LD: 17 Nov, JP (PRC).

#### **Brown Creeper**

EA: 10 Sep (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 15 Sep, Kankakee (JBH); 30 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MS). MC: 20, downtown Chi, 22 Oct (CBCM).

#### **Carolina Wren**

MC: 13, Carl.L, 3 Oct (KAM).

#### **House Wren**

MC: 11, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS). LD: 4 Nov, Galesburg (Knox Co) (PR); 1 Nov, Kankakee (JBH); 29 Oct, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 20 Oct, Forest Park (Cook Co) (RAM, ALM); 19 Oct (3), Carl.C (KAM); 16 Oct, Evergreen L (MJW).

#### **Winter Wren**

EA: 12 Sep, Linc.P (GAW, NPBW); 21 Sep, JP (PRC). MC: 14, JP, 23 Oct (PRC).

#### **Sedge Wren**

EA: 1 Sep, JP (KMC, JSM). MC: 60 (summering population), Carl.F, 12 Aug (DMK). LD: 20 Oct, Greene Vly FP (UWG); 20 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 14 Oct, Shelby Co (TAM).

#### **Marsh Wren**

EA: 17 Sep, Zion (Lake Co) (EWW); 26 Sep, Montrose H (GAW); 26 Sep, JP (PRC). MC: 5, Montrose H, 22 Oct (RDH). LD: 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 20 Oct (2), Decatur (TAM, KAM).



*Chestnut-sided Warbler, Urbana, Champaign County. 27 November 2007.*  
Photo by Greg Lambeth.

#### **Golden-crowned Kinglet**

EA: 26 Sep, JP (PRC); 26 Sep (6), Grant P (DFS). MC: 86, JP, 23 Oct (PRC).

#### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

EA: 14 Sep, Montrose H (GAW); 15 Sep, IBSP (EWW). MC: 60, Carl.C, 13 Oct (DMK, MS); 25 Linc.P, 22 Oct (GN); 24, Grant P, 24 Sep (DFS).

#### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

EA: 22 Aug, Montrose H (JHP). MC: **12**, Carl.C, 19 & 26 Aug (DMK)—record fall high count for s. IL. LD: 6 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, KAM, IOS).

#### **Eastern Bluebird**

MC: 42, Evergreen L, 9 Nov (MJW); 41, Fulton Co, 16 Sep (LLH); 37, IBSP, 4 Oct (EWW).

#### **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**

19 Nov, Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co) (EWW:ph).

#### **Veery**

EA: 21 Aug, Grant P (DFS). MC: 10 (breeding population), Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS). LD: 5 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 3 Oct, IBSP (EWW).

#### **Gray-checked Thrush**

EA: 3 Sep (2), Carl.C (DMK). MC: 13, Kankakee, 26 Sep (JBH). LD: 11 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 9 Oct, JP (KMC).

#### **Swainson's Thrush**

EA: 18 Aug, McHenry Co (DFS); 19 Aug, Douglas-Hart Nature Center (Coles Co) (DM); 26 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). MC: **244**, Kankakee, 26 Sep (JBH); 82, IBSP, 3 Sep (EWW); 49, Montrose H, 3 Sep (GAW). LD: 28 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM).

#### **Hermit Thrush**

EA: 20 Sep, JP (KMC). MC: 67, Montrose H, 9 Oct (GAW); 32, JP, 10 Oct (PRC); 4, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK).

#### **Wood Thrush**

LD: 9 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 7 Oct, Rockford (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 3 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

#### **American Robin**

MC: 475+, IBSP, 20 Oct (EWW); 300, Carl.C, 20 Oct (DMK, MS).

#### **Gray Catbird**

MC: **60**, Linc.P, 13 Sep (GN). LD into Dec, including multiple birds along Chi lakefront (m.ob.).

#### **Northern Mockingbird**

MC: 6, Carl.C, 12 Aug (DMK).

#### **Brown Thrasher**

EA: 16 Sep, Montrose H (GAW). MC: 4, Carl.C, various dates (DMK et al.); 3, JP, 26 Sep (PRC); 3, IBSP, 7 Oct (EWW).

#### **European Starling**

MC: **12,000**, LCal, 14 Oct (WJM); 8000, Carl.C, 17-18 Nov (DMK); 5000+, IBSP, 2 Nov (EWW).

#### **American Pipit**

EA: 15 Sep, IBSP (EWW, SJH); 15 Sep, Greene Vly FP (UWG). MC: 110, Palestine Twp (Woodford Co), 4 Nov (MJW); 46, Momence (Kankakee Co), 5 Nov (JBH); 42, Henry Co, 7 Nov (AFS). LD: 25 Nov, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 17 Nov, Montrose H (GAW); 11 Nov, Momence (Kankakee Co) (JBH).

#### **SPRAGUE'S PIPIT**

10 Nov (2), Pyramid SP (Perry Co) (DMK, IOS).

#### **Cedar Waxwing**

EA: 8 Aug (38), JP (PRC); 11 Aug (147), IBSP (EWW). MC: 1120, Kankakee, 31 Oct (JBH); 415, IBSP, 1 Sep (EWW); 231, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS).

#### **Blue-winged Warbler**

EA: 21 Aug, Linc.P (GN); 23 Aug, Grant P (DFS). LD: 14 Sep, Ewing P, Bloomington (MJW), 10 Sep (2), Carl.L (KAM). "Lawrence's Warbler": 30 Aug, Ewing P, Bloomington (MJW).

#### **Golden-winged Warbler**

EA: 18 Aug (3), The Grove, Glenview (Cook Co) (JSA); 19 Aug, Douglas-Hart Nature Center (Coles Co) (DM); 26 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 4, Carl.C, 3 & 9 Sep (DMK, MS); 3, Aux Sable Creek (Kendall Co), 25 Aug (DFS). LD: 22 Sep, JP (PKD).

#### **Tennessee Warbler**

EA: 26 Jul, Grant P (DFS). MC: 70+, IBSP, 3 Sep (EWW); 53, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS); 40, Carl.C, 31 Aug (KAM). LD: **12 Nov**, Golconda (Pope Co) (TJD); 20 Oct, Forest Park (Cook Co) (RAM, ALM).

#### **Orange-crowned Warbler**

EA: 15 Sep, JP (KMC); 16 Sep, Chi (MH; McCormick Place casualty, spec. to FMNH); 30 Sep, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 12, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK, MS); 5, Linc.P, 17 Oct (GAW, NPBW). LD: 23 Nov, Linc. P (NL).

#### **Nashville Warbler**

EA: **14 Aug**, Grant P (DFS). MC: 16, Salt Crk Wds, 16 Sep (DFS); 10, Linc.P, 26 Sep (GAW, NPBW); 8, Carl.C, 29 Sep (DMK, MS). LD: 20 Oct, Eggers Wds FP, LCal (WJM).

#### **Northern Parula**

EA: 18 Aug, Montrose H (KH); 21 Aug, Grant P (DFS). MC: **12**, Carl.C, 30 Sep (DMK, MS)—record fall high count. LD: 9 Oct, Batavia (Kane Co) (JW); 8 Oct (3), Carl.C (DMK, MS); 8 Oct, Rend L (KAM); 6 Oct, Linc.P (JSA); 2 Oct, Evergreen L (MJW).

#### **Yellow Warbler**

EA: 25 Jul (7), JP (PRC); 26 Jul, Grant P (DFS). MC: 4, Montrose H, 4 Sep (GAW). LD: 4 Oct, Jasper Co (CLH); 19 Sep, JP (PRC).

#### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

EA: 19 Aug, Douglas-Hart Nature Center (Coles Co) (DM); 19 Aug, Carl.C (DMK); 21 Aug, Linc.P (GN). MC: 10, Carl.C, 15 Sep (DMK, CLH). LD: **27 Nov**, Urbana (Champaign Co) (GSL:ph)—easy record late date (previously 1 Nov 1993, Coles Co); 9 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 7 Oct, Palos (WJM).

**Magnolia Warbler**

EA: 18 Aug, Montrose H (DKA); 19 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 30, Carl.C, 30 Sep (DMK, MS); 21, Montrose H, 4 Sep (GAW). LD: 10 Oct, Linc.P (GAW, NPBW); 6 Oct, LCal (WJM); 3 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

**Cape May Warbler**

EA: 17 Aug, Montrose H (GAW). MC: 57, Grant P, 24 Sep (DFS)—**record fall high count** by six birds. LD: 3 Nov, Chi (TSS); 21 Oct, Linc.P (JHP).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

EA: 8 Sep, JP (SFr). MC: 3, Montrose H, 18 Sep (LM). LD: 8 Oct, Montrose H (NL); 8 Oct (female), Carl.C (DMK, MS).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

EA: 23 Aug, JP (KMC). MC: 240, Carl.C, 8 Oct (DMK, MS).

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

EA: 17 Aug, Linc.P (COG); 26 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 40, Carl.C, 8 Oct (DMK, MS)—record high count for s. IL; 21, Evergreen L, 20 Sep (MJW). LD: 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 22 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM).

**Blackburnian Warbler**

EA: 12 Aug, Chau (MST); 18 Aug, Jasper Co (CLH); 18 Aug, Montrose H (KH); 19 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). MC: 7, Carl.C, 27 Aug (KAM); 6, Aux Sable Creek (Kendall Co), 25 Aug (DFS); 5, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS). LD: 8 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 8 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 5 Oct, Linc.P (GN).

**Yellow-throated Warbler**

MC: 6 (breeding population), Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS). LD: 27 Sep, L Springfield (Sangamon Co) (KAM); 24 Sep, Wamble Mountain (se. Saline Co) (EWW).

**Pine Warbler**

EA: 20 Sep, Montrose H (RDH). MC: 4, Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co), 26 Sep (JZ). LD: 11 Nov, L Arlington, Arlington Heights (Cook Co) (JCB).

**Palm Warbler**

EA: 18 Aug, Montrose H (DKA); 15 Sep, Carl.F (DMK, CLH). MC: 125+, Miller Meadow FP (Cook Co), 7 Oct (JSA); 51, Grant P, 20 Sep (DFS). LD: 12 Nov, Carl.C (KAM); 24 Oct, Montrose H (GAW).

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

EA: 21 Aug, Grant P (DFS). MC: 14, Linc.P, 20 Sep (GN); 8, Evergreen L, 20 Sep (MJW). LD: 5 Oct, Linc.P (GN); 4 Oct, Humboldt P, Chi (SSB); 3 Oct (3), Carl.C (KAM).

**Blackpoll Warbler**

EA: 21 Aug, Grant P (DFS); 10 Sep, Carl.C (KAM). MC: 18, JP, 19 Sep (KMC); 16, Montrose H, 3 Sep (GAW); 16, Salt Crk Wds, 16 Sep (DFS); 16, Grant P, 20 Sep (DFS). LD: 28 Oct, Richland Co (CLH); 12 Oct, Linc.P (LGM).

**Cerulean Warbler**

EA: 23 Aug, Linc.P (GN); 27 Aug, Carl.C (KAM). LD: 20 Sep, Linc.P (GN); 2 Sep, JP (PJP).

**Black-and-white Warbler**

EA: 4 Aug, Ldn-Mlr (DFS). MC: 16, Carl.C, 15 Sep (DMK, CLH)—record fall high count for s. IL; 6, Montrose H, 4 Sep (GAW). LD: 8 Oct, Carl.C (DMK); 7 Oct, JP (PRC).



**American Redstart**

EA: 10 Aug, Kankakee (JBH); 15 Aug, Linc.P (GAW, NPBW). MC: 45, Montrose H, 3 Sep (GAW); 32, Carl.C, 3 Sep (DMK). LD: 21 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 20 Oct, Eggers Wds FP, LCal (WJM).

**Prothonotary Warbler**

LD: 23 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 17 Sep, Rend L (KAM).

**Worm-eating Warbler**

EA: 23 Aug, Grant P (LR).

**Ovenbird**

EA: 17 Aug, Montrose H (GAW). MC: 12, Carl.C, 9 Sep (DMK, MS). LD: 21 Nov, Chi (DEW; McCormick Place casualty, spec. to FMNH).

**Northern Waterthrush**

EA: 25 Jul, Woodridge FP (Du Page Co) (SMr); 26 Jul, Montrose H (DKA); 27 Jul, Grant P (DFS). MC: 12, Montrose H, 4 Sep (GAW). LD: into Dec, Linc.P (GN).

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

EA: 26 Jul, Grant P (DFS).

**Kentucky Warbler**

EA: 24 Aug, Ewing P, Bloomington (MJW). LD: 30 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 11 Sep, Montrose H (SBB).

**Connecticut Warbler**

EA: 22 Aug (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 26 Aug, Montrose H (REF, KDF). LD: 18 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM).

**Mourning Warbler**

EA: 11 Aug, IBSP (EWW)—**record early arrival** by one day; 26 Aug, Carl.C (DMK). LD: 5 Oct, Linc.P (GN); 5 Oct, JP (KMC); 3 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

**Common Yellowthroat**

MC: 60, Carl.C, 7 Oct (DMK, MS)—record fall high count for s. IL. LD: 7 Nov (building strike), Chi (CBCM).

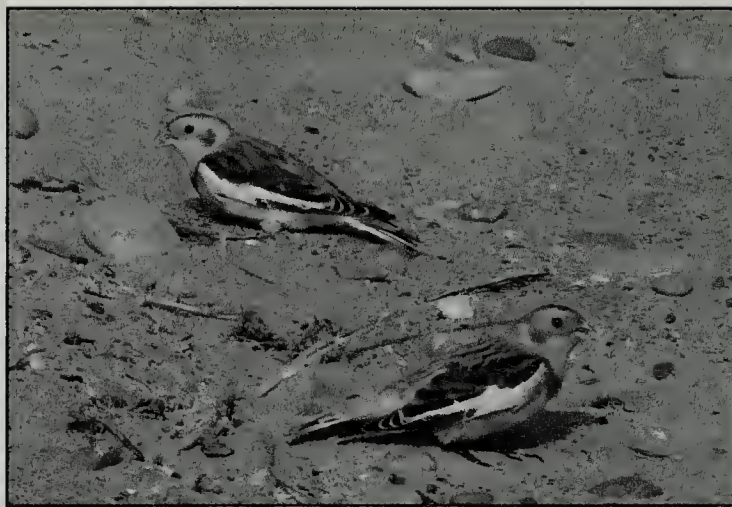
**Hooded Warbler**

EA: 19 Aug, Linc.P (KH:ph). LD: 30 Sep, Montrose H (LK).

**Wilson's Warbler**

EA: 5 Aug, Somme Wds FP, Northbrook (Cook Co) (JRS)—second earliest fall arrival date, with next earliest data beginning 11 Aug; 18 Aug, Montrose H (KH); 21 Aug, Grant P (DFS); 31 Aug, Carl.C (KAM). MC: 8, Linc.P, 12 Sep (GAW, NPBW). LD: 10 Oct, Linc.P (GAW, NPBW); 10 Oct, JP (PRC); 7 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 3 Oct, Evergreen L (MJW).

*Snow Buntings at Illinois  
Beach State Park, Lake  
County. 11 November 2007.  
Photo by Carolyn Fields.*



#### Canada Warbler

**MC:** 3, Salt Crk Wds, 26 Aug (DFS).  
**LD:** 3 Oct, Carl.C (KAM).

#### Yellow-breasted Chat

**EA:** 1 Aug, Montrose H (MGG)—perhaps a notably early date, but there are no other published arrival dates in the corpus. **LD:** 9 Sep, Mackinaw River SFWA (Tazewell Co) (MJW, m.ob.); 25 Aug, Carl.C (DMK).

#### Summer Tanager

**MC:** 7, Tower Rock (Hardin Co), 24 Sep (EWW)—second highest fall count. **LD:** 25 Sep, L Shelbyville (Shelby Co) (EWW); 22 Sep, Carl.C (KAM); 12 Sep, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (CKM, JDM); 17 Aug, Ryerson FP (Lake Co) (DFS).

#### Scarlet Tanager

**MC:** 4, Kankakee, 9 & 12 Oct (JBH). **LD:** 13 Oct, Kankakee (JBH); 3 Oct, Linc.P (GAW, NPBW).

#### Eastern Towhee

**EA:** 16 Sep, JP (KMC, JTW). **MC:** 12, Carl.C, 8 Oct (DMK, MS).

#### American Tree Sparrow

**EA:** 11 Oct, Montrose H (RC); 11 Oct, JP (PRC). **MC:** 127, Hennepin L, 23 Nov (DFS).

#### Chipping Sparrow

**MC:** 56, Ldn-Mlr, 4 Aug (DFS); 50+, Decatur, 20 Oct (KAM); 39, Lee Co, 22 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 13 Nov (2), New Athens (St. Clair Co) (TJD); 12 Nov, JP (KMC); 7 Nov, Kankakee (JBH); 6 Nov, IBSP (EWW:ph).

#### Clay-colored Sparrow

**EA:** 4 Sep, Beaubien Wds FP, Chi (DFS); 12 Sep, Montrose H (KH). **MC:** 3, Green L CA, 14 Oct (MJW). **LD:** 23 Oct, Greene Vly FP (MAM); 23 Oct, Linc.P (GN); 20 Oct, Decatur (KAM), 13 Oct, Carl.C (DMK).

#### Field Sparrow

**EA:** 23 Sep, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 46, Green L CA, 14 Oct (MJW); 26, Carl.C, 19 Oct (KAM); 23, IBSP, 4 Oct (EWW).

#### Vesper Sparrow

**MC:** 18, e. Lee Co, 21 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 21 Nov, Lawrence Co (CLH); 7 Nov, Momence (Kankakee Co) (JBH); 3 Nov, IBSP (EWW).

#### Savannah Sparrow

**MC:** 40, Carl.C, 13 Oct (DMK); 37, Monroe Co, 15 Oct (DJJ); 34, Green L CA, 14 Oct (MJW); 32, Northerly I, 28 Sep (DFS).

#### Grasshopper Sparrow

**EA:** 17 Sep, Northerly I (DFS). **MC:** 6, Marion Co, 6 Oct (DMK, IOS). **LD:** 20 Oct, IBSP (EWW).

#### Henslow's Sparrow

**EA:** 18 Aug, Evergreen L (MJW). **LD:** 14 Oct, HL (FRH); 14 Oct, Shelby Co (TAM); 6 Oct, Marion Co (DMK, IOS).

#### Le Conte's Sparrow

**MC:** 7, Carl.C, 20 Oct (DMK, MS); 3, Montrose H, 22 Oct (RDH).

#### Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

**EA:** 26 Sep (3), Northerly I (DFS). **MC:** 5, Montrose H, 9 Oct (RDH); 3, Carl.C, 7 Oct (DMK, MS). **LD:** 21 Oct, Montrose H (AFS); 20 Oct, Decatur (TAM, KAM).

#### Fox Sparrow

**EA:** 24 Sep, Montrose H (DKA). **MC:** 10, Cambridge (Henry Co), 10 Nov (EWW).

#### Song Sparrow

**MC:** 60, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK, MS); 47, Montrose H, 22 Oct (GAW).

#### Lincoln's Sparrow

**EA:** 16 Sep (2), Salt Crk Wds (DFS); 30 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MS). **MC:** 18, IBSP, 4 Oct (EWW); 16, Chi, 5 Oct (DEW, CBCM); 12, Grant P, 28 Sep (DFS); 4, Carl.C, 13 Oct (DMK, MS). **LD:** 14 Nov, Northerly I (TSS); 28 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 27 Oct, se. Moultrie Co (TAM).

#### Swamp Sparrow

**MC:** 90, Carl.C, 7 Oct (DMK, MS); 70, Mackinaw Bluffs Corridor (Woodford Co), 13 Oct (MJW); 62, Montrose H, 9 Oct (GAW); 50+, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 7 Oct (TAM); 43, Kidd L SNA (Randolph Co), 20 Oct (C&PD, DJJ).

#### White-throated Sparrow

**EA:** 8 Sep (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 29 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MS). **MC:** 366, Montrose H, 9 Oct (GAW); 205, Kankakee, 9 Oct (JBH).

#### Harris's Sparrow

**EA:** 28 Sep (2 ad.), Montrose H (RDH); 15 Oct, Chi (MH). **MC:** 3, Rock Island Co, 22 Oct (SMF).

#### White-crowned Sparrow

**EA:** 29 Sep, Carl.C (DMK, MS). **MC:** 62, Carl.L, 19 Oct (KAM); 31, IBSP, 19 Oct (EWW); 12, Montrose H, 9 Oct (GAW). "**Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow**": 12 Oct (1st yr), Montrose H (RDH).

#### Dark-eyed Junco

**EA:** 12 Sep, Montrose H (JHP). **MC:** 215, Linc.P, 23 Oct (GN).

#### Lapland Longspur

**EA:** 28 Sep, Montrose H (RDH); 28 Sep (2), Northerly I (DFS); 3 Nov, Clinton Co (DMK, RES, CLH, MS). **MC:** 700, Carl.C, 18 Nov (DMK); 230, DeKalb Co, 10 Nov (EWW).

#### Smith's Longspur

**EA:** 10 Nov (2), Pyramid SP (Perry Co) (DMK, IOS). **MC:** 47, Clinton Co, 24 Nov (DMK)—**record fall high count by 30 birds**.

#### Snow Bunting

**EA:** 13 Oct, Montrose H (NL); 11 Nov, ClinL (GSL, et al.); **MC:** 100+, Rockford (Winnebago Co), 11 Nov (DTW); 64, IBSP, 3 Nov (EWW). **Others:** 16-19 Nov, Prairie Ridge SNA (Jasper Co) (RES:ph).

#### Northern Cardinal

**MC:** 60, Carl.C, 14 Oct (DMK, MS); 37, River Forest (Cook Co), 28 Sep (JSA).

#### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

**EA:** 19 Aug, Carl.C (DMK); 20 Aug, Henry Co (EWW); 23 Aug, Grant P (DFS). **MC:** 27, Kankakee, 22 Sep (JBH); 20, Carl.C, 16 Sep (DMK, WCR). **LD:** 8 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS); 4 Oct, IBSP (EWW).

#### Blue Grosbeak

**MC:** 6, IBSP, 1-3 Sep (EWW). **LD:** 12 Oct (female), Wayne/Richland Co line (CLH); 24 Sep, Hardin Co (EWW); 3 Sep, IBSP (EWW); 3 Sep, Carl.C (DMK).

#### Indigo Bunting

**EA:** 1 Aug (2), Northerly I (DFS)—**record early arrival** (but see note at this species from fall 2005 regarding paucity of fall migrant

*Rusty Blackbird, Montrose,  
Cook County. 21 September 2007.  
Photo by Craig Thayer.*

arrival data). **MC:** 120, Carl.C, 8 Oct (DMK, MS)—ties record fall high count from 5 Oct 2000; 23, Salt Crk Wds, 2 Sep (DFS). **LD:** 24 Oct (building strike), Chi (CBCM); 19 Oct, Merwin Nature Preserve (McLean Co) (MJW); 19 Oct (4), Carl.C (KAM).

#### **Painted Bunting**

**LD:** 21 Jul, East St. Louis (St. Clair Co) (KAM).

#### **Dickcissel**

**EA:** 25 Aug, Montrose H (GAW). **LD:** 7 Oct, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co) (TAM); 7 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS).

#### **Bobolink**

**EA:** 1 Aug, Northerly I (DFS). **MC:** 70, Marion Co, 6 Oct (DMK, IOS); 35+, IBSP, 7 Oct (KAM); 35, Decatur, 20 Sep (TAM, KAM). **LD:** 14 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, MS).

#### **Red-winged Blackbird**

**MC:** 6000, Carl.C, 23 Nov (DMK, MS).

#### **Eastern Meadowlark**

**MC:** 83, Jasper Co, 27 Nov (RES); 60, Carl.C, 2 Nov (DMK).

#### **Western Meadowlark**

**MC:** 10, Clinton Co, 3-4 Nov (DMK et al.). **LD:** 24 Nov (4), Carl.C (DMK, MS).



*Red Crossbill, Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County.  
17 November 2007. Photo by Eric Walters.*



#### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

**EA:** 23 Aug (female), La Salle L (CKM); 9 Sep (imm. male), Freeport (Stephenson Co) (EWW). **LD:** 6 Oct, Carl.C (DMK, KAM, IOS).

#### **Rusty Blackbird**

**EA:** 15 Sep, Greene Vly FP (UWG); 16 Sep, Montrose H (KH). **MC:** 100+, Wabash Co, 9 Nov (CLH); 95+, Joslin Slough (Rock Island Co), 18 Nov (EWW); 80, Carl.C, 23 Nov (DMK, MS).

#### **Brewer's Blackbird**

**EA:** 14 Oct, Modena (Stark Co) (DJM). **MC:** 13, wc. McHenry Co, 20 Aug (probable breeding population) (EWW); 8, Carl.C, 2 Nov (DMK). **LD:** 25 Nov, Kane Co (SAC); 23 Nov, Carl.C (DMK); 11 Nov, Henry Co (EWW); 11 Nov, Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM).

#### **Common Grackle**

**MC:** 30,000, Carl.C, 18 Nov (DMK); 11,000, Posen (Washington Co), 25 Nov (EWW); 3350, IBSP, 2 Nov (EWW); 1850, LCal, 14 Oct (WJM).

#### **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE**

2 Nov (female), Monterey Mine (Clinton Co) (\*DMK).

#### **Brown-headed Cowbird**

**MC:** 8000, Carl.C, 23 Nov (DMK, MS); 600, Momence (Kankakee Co), 24 Aug (JBH).

#### **blackbird, sp.?**

**MC:** 100,000, Rend L, 11 Nov (CAT, TLK).

#### **Baltimore Oriole**

**MC:** 12, Beaubien Wds FP, Chi, 24 Aug (DFS). **LD:** 30 Sep, Richland Co (CLH); 24 Sep, Tower Rock (Hardin Co) (EWW).

#### **Purple Finch**

**EA** (see Note): 28 Jul, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (REF, KDF); 29 Jul, Montrose H (KH); 18 Aug, Boone Co (DFS); 26 Aug (2), Salt Crk Wds (DFS); 1 Sep, Kankakee (JBH); 3 Sep, IBSP (EWW). **MC:** 133, IBSP, 9 Oct (EWW)—**record fall high count** by eight birds; 17, Northerly I, 21 Oct (SJH); 12, Kankakee, 26 Sep (JBH), 10, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 27 Oct (TAM); 10, Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co), 4 Nov (KAM). **Note:** The July data are difficult to interpret and are not readily "pigeon-holed" as fall migrants. Among August records, this year's 18 Aug date ties with 1983 as a record early arrival.

#### **House Finch**

**MC:** 160, IBSP, 20 Oct (EWW); 62, Pembroke Twp (Kankakee Co), 16 Oct (JBH); 43, Montrose H, 23 Aug (GAW); 28, McHenry Co, 18 Aug (DFS).

#### **Red Crossbill**

**EA:** 3 Nov, Lyons Wds FP (Lake Co) (EWW). **MC:** 76, IBSP, 10 Nov (AFS, WSS, DTW).

### White-winged Crossbill

MC: 52, Sand Ridge SF (Mason Co), 28 Oct (RLJ)—highest IL count since fall of 1989; 10, Galesburg (Knox Co), 4 Nov (DJM). Others: 11 Nov, IBSP (AFS).

### Common Redpoll

EA: 25 Oct, L Arlington, Arlington Heights (Cook Co) (JCB); 6 Nov, Montrose H (GAW); 10 Nov, IBSP (AFS); 29 Nov (4), Kankakee (JBH). MC: 7, Northerly I, 18 Nov (SJH); 7, Linc.P, 13 Nov (RC).

### Pine Siskin

EA: 29 Sept, Mundelein (Lake Co) (SDB); 6 Oct, Wauk (EWW); 9 Oct, Montrose H (RDH); 13 Oct (4), Kankakee (JBH); 19 Oct, Wayne Co (CLH); 22 Oct, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 24 Oct, Ottawa (La Salle Co) (CKM, JDM). MC: 47, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 30 Nov (CKM, JDM); 30, Galesburg (Knox Co), 26 Nov (PR).

### American Goldfinch

MC: 800, Carl.C, 16 Sep (DMK); 332, Kankakee, 18 Aug (JBH); 320+, IBSP, 13 Oct (KAM); 300+, Wayne Co, 19 Oct (CLH); 225, Northerly I, 22 Sep (SJH); 75, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 20 Oct (TAM); 53, Rockford (Winnebago Co), 30 Nov (DTW).

### Evening Grosbeak

EA: 9 Oct, West Chicago (Du Page Co) (\*SAC)—earliest documented IL arrival date; 24 Oct, Lake Forest (Lake Co) (CEG); 12-13 Nov, Galesburg (Knox Co) (JS, m. ob.).



*Common Redpoll,  
Lake Arlington, Cook County.  
25 October 2007.  
Photo by Joan Bruchman.*

### House Sparrow

MC: 400, Carl.C, 13 Oct (DMK).

### Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: 200, Emiquon NWR (Fulton Co), 10 Aug (DMK, SDB, TAM); 60, Chau, 28 Oct (RLJ); 35, near Bushnell (McDonough Co), 28 Nov (LLH). Other: 28 Oct to end of season, Ottawa (La Salle Co) (CKM, JDM).

### Exotics:

Budgerigar: 15 Sep, LCal (WJM).

Orange Bishop: Aug to 1 Sep, Montrose H (m.ob.).

European Goldfinch: 28 Oct, Montrose H (RC).

Addenda to fall 2006 summary:

Kentucky Warbler: LD: 4 Sep, JP (NLB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: LD: 20 Nov, Rainbow Beach, Chi (NLB, MLR, EO).

— Douglas F. Stotz  
Conservation Ecologist/Ornithologist  
Field Museum of Natural History  
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605  
dstotz@fieldmuseum.org

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# INDEX to *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*, Volume 16

Compiled by Renee Baade

**Editor's Note:** *Due to space and deadline issues, we were unable to publish the index to Vol 16, until this issue. Many thanks go to Renee Baade who is always on time with the Index. We are examining publishing the Index online instead of in the Meadowlark. Stay tuned. (SD).*

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**Due by 7 March** (1 Dec through 28 Feb)

**Send to:** Kelly McKay

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E-mail: calidris\_1004@yahoo.com

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**Send to:** Douglas Stotz

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Environmental and Conservation Programs

Field Museum of Natural History

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605

Email address: dstotz@fieldmuseum.org

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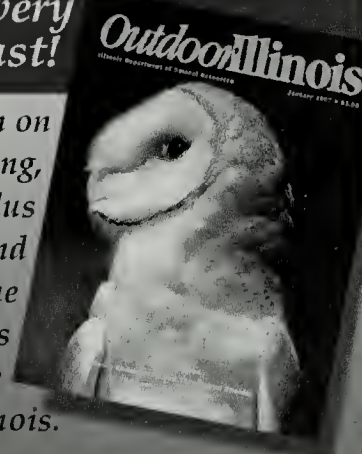
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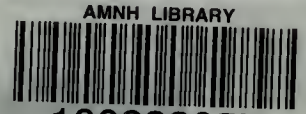
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Lesser Yellowlegs and a Pectoral Sandpiper  
fly through Annawan in Henry County.  
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Photo by Eric Walters.